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## NEW BOSS MEETS THE FANS AT HOSPICE CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Darren Moore signs autographs for fans at Stourbridge

ALBION legend Darren Moore was back on the touchline in Stourbridge just 24 hours after taking charge of the Baggies for the first time as caretaker manager.

It was a busy weekend for Moore who watched from the sidelines at the Glassboys' War Memorial ground in Amblecote as a Baggies legends side took on Stourbridge Old Boys to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice, in memory of local woman Jane Webb.

Less than 24 hours earlier 'Big Dave' had made his debut as gaffer at the Hawthorns as battling Baggies were held to a 1-1 draw by Swansea.

Stourbridge friends Matt Webb and Mark Naylor have achieved their goal of raising

£50,000 for the hospice in memory of Matt's mother.

The third annual charity football match between sides representing West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge FC saw thousands of fans turn out to see the teams compete for the Jane Webb Memorial Trophy, this year sponsored by Western Power Distribution.

Organisers also put on a full family fun day with market stalls, fairground games and rides, the chance to meet WBA stars Sam Field and Alex Palmer, a mascot obstacle course, a sporting memorabilia auction and the opportunity to meet the new Albion caretaker boss, following the departure of Alan Pardew.

For the second year in a row it was The Baggies who claimed victory, with man-of-the-match Nigel Quashie catching the eye with a dominant midfield display and a rare appearance on the scoresheet as the game finished 5-1.

Among the crowd some famous football faces including Bob Taylor and new Halesowen Town boss Lee Hughes. 'Super Bob' was on the pitch at half-time to present Kewford Eagles and Phoenix Youth with the trophies they won in a recent youth tournament supporting the hospice.

Matt Webb, Stourbridge Old Boys manager, said: "To have raised that much money for families at the hospice means so much to Mark and myself."

Substance abuse is becoming 'acceptable' warns leader

## CALL TO LAUNCH A WAR ON DRUGS

DEATHS from drug abuse in Dudley have almost doubled in 10 years, at a time funding for recovery services is being cut.

But Dudley Council's leader blames drug use becoming more 'acceptable' in society for the rise and is calling for 'a war on drugs'.

Forty people died from drug abuse in the borough between 2014 and 2016 – up from 23 in 2004 to 2006. Of those 40, 21 were linked to heroin and morphine, raising fears that former legal 'highs' such as Black Mamba are contributing to the deaths.

In October, it was revealed West Midlands Ambulance Service dealt with 50 cases related to Black Mamba every day. The figures have been published by the Office of National Statistics.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, blames the rise of drug deaths in the area on more people using them recreationally.

He said: "It's becoming acceptable. We're seeing a softer stance from senior police officers and some politicians.

## Mistake

"I think that's a mistake. The more we start turning a blind eye, then the more it becomes the norm."

"We need a war on drugs to eradicate this problem once and for all. It has become a cancer in our society. But it has to come from up top, from the senior police officers, politicians, the senior judiciary."

Dudley Council is cutting funding to its contracted substance misuse programme by £400,000. The council is spending £4m on the programme this year.

By Alex Ross and Megan Archer

The rate of deaths related to heroin and morphine in Dudley, at 21 deaths, were 2.2 per 100,000 of the population.

The areas with the highest rate in the West Midlands are Walsall, 2.5, followed by Dudley, 2.2, and Birmingham, where, although there were 154 deaths, it was 1.8 per 100,000.

In Wolverhampton, where there were 11 deaths, the rate was 1.4 per 100,000. Sandwell has the lowest death rates for heroin and morphine than anywhere else in the West Midlands with six deaths linked to the drugs in two years – 0.6 per 100,000. South Staffordshire had one death.

Change, Grow, Live run Atlantic Recovery Centre in Dudley and The Beacon Recovery Service in Walsall, where head of services, Kerry Trinder, said: "Every drug-related death is a tragedy."

## It's a Michelangelo master-pizza



Artist Geoff Tristram, right, and restaurant co-owner Danny Koliqi in front of the spectacular mural

IMAGINE eating your spag bol sat next to this masterpiece.

Stourbridge artist Geoff Tristram has hand-painted a replica of the hands from Michelangelo's The Creation of Adam on the wall of a cosy Italian restaurant in Brierley Hill.

The interior of II Michelangelo in High Street now brings to mind the decoration of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, with all four walls having a different mural in keeping with the eatery's theme.

Co-owner of the restaurant Danny Koliqi said: "I think it looks amazing."

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## POLICE

## New appeal over machete incident

THE search for a man seen armed with a machete in a Dudley street continues as police launch a fresh appeal for witnesses.

A manhunt is under way following an incident on Buffery Road last Thursday where a car apparently mowed down a man believed to be in his 50s.

Residents told of how armed police swooped on the street shortly after the incident looking for the suspect, with forensic investigators photographing a black Renault Megan.

Officers spoke to witnesses and a cordon remained in place until around 11.30pm.

A spokesman said the force was 'still actively trying to identify the suspect' and asked anyone with information to call 101.

## BUSINESS

## Shopping centre deal is in jeopardy

THE mega-merger that would bring together the owners of the Merry Hill and Bullring shopping centres is hanging in the balance after a rival £5 billion bid from a French group.

Shopping centre operator Hammerson, owner of the Bullring and Grand Central in Birmingham, had agreed a £3.4bn tie-up with Intu, owner of Merry Hill and the Trafford Centre in Manchester, but it could be derailed.

## FATAL

## Woman dies in motorway accident

A WOMAN has died after a crash between a car and a lorry on the M5 near Halesowen on Tuesday morning.

A stretch of the northbound motorway was closed during rush hour as a result of the crash between junctions 3 and 4. Emergency services were called shortly before 4.30am but the woman in the car was confirmed dead at the scene.

## INSIDE

## BOSTIN' BEST FESTIVAL PLAN



PAGE 5

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	9
CLUBS	13
THE TICKET	19
BRAIN GYM	25
PROPERTY	27-30
MOTORING	31-33
SPORT	39-40
<b>CONTACT US</b>	

# Mia's new role could lead to West End



Mia Richards of Lower Gornal

HOT on the heels of her hit panto performance as Princess Jasmine in Aladdin, rising theatre star Mia Richards from Dudley has landed a new role.

The 20-year-old from Lower Gornal has been cast in a comedy musical called Can't Stop It.

The production is being showcased at The Other Palace Theatre in London on May 15 to an audience of potential investors with the hope of securing backing to take it to the West End stage.

It follows an American high school student as he takes a trip to Cancun to reunite with his childhood best mate,

dragging a bunch of friends behind him as well as his mother.

Mia, a student at Performance Preparation Academy in Guildford, said she was thrilled to secure the role of Arigato. "The material is so fun and exciting to perform and I'm so grateful to be part of the show's journey and share the stage with such a lovely cast," she said.

She received rave reviews for her role in Aladdin alongside a cast that included former Conservative MP turned TV personality Ann Widdecombe at Marina Theatre in Lowestoft during its 32-performance run.

Mia started her musical theatre journey in productions such as Phantom of the Opera, Sweeney Todd and Les Misérables at Ellowes Hall Sports College.

Mia has also appeared on stage with West End stars such as including Bonnie Langford and Samantha Spiro after a successful audition for an evening to celebrate the work of composer Stephen Sondheim at Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. She also studied at Andrew Lloyd Webber's Arts Educational School in London for a year.

She landed her first paid role in Aladdin just one year into her degree course.

# Seven new rail stations planned for the region

SEVEN new railway stations are on the way for the West Midlands, including one at Merry Hill shopping centre and another at West Midland Safari Park.

The multi-million pound overhaul could also include two stations between Wolverhampton and Walsall, it has been confirmed. One of those could see the revival of Willenhall station in Bilston Street while the other could be the reopening of Darlaston's James Bridge station.

A new train and Metro station at the Merry Hill shopping centre in Brierley Hill could mean passengers would be able to get to the shopping centre by train for the first time.

## Heritage

Meanwhile West Midlands Railway trains would also run on the Severn Valley Railway line for the first time to serve a new station at West Midland Safari Park.

The main line would link up with the Severn Valley heritage line from Stourbridge under plans, said West Midland Railways spokesman Nick Brown.

The proposals rest on the outcome of 'feasibility assessments', say the operator, which has now officially taken control of Wolverhampton Railway Station from Virgin Trains.

# Eyesore land to get a makeover

AN eyesore patch of land in Upper Gornal and Woodsetton is to be regenerated.

The area of unregistered land just off Eve Lane which leads to open fields is a well-used route for residents and children walking to High Arcal but becomes overgrown and untidy.

Local councillors Adam Aston and Keiran Casey working with Woodsetton Charitable Trust, who also got the funding for new pathways in the area, have now secured further funding to get this area tidied up, improved and new drains installed.

Councillor Keiran Casey said: "I think this is another great example of local councillors working with residents and a fantastic local organisation to secure these improvements which will make a big difference."

# Spies on the road

CCTV spy cars in the Black Country caught nearly 3,000 motorists parking illegally during one year, meaning £704,041 in fines. The two traffic-busting vehicles - introduced in 2014 - only patrol roads outside schools along red routes and near bus stops in Sandwell.

# Museum to re-open as council training base

## On the run for Action Heart centre



Competitors ready for the Action Heart run following a route starting and finishing at Russells Hall Hospital

A CHARITY race, postponed due to snow, took place at the weekend, attracting almost 300 runners.

Hospital, before heading into Dudley, down Himley Road and into Pensnett.

It finished back at the start line with crowds cheering as the runners came in.

Joy Brown, from Action Heart, said: "It went very well and was well-attended considering it had to

be rescheduled. The amount raised will go toward the charity's work helping people who are in cardiac rehabilitation."

The race was originally due to take place in March, but was called off due to the arctic conditions.

The Action Heart Centre is based at the hospital.

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# Taxi drivers furious over city's boom in licences

TAXI drivers in Dudley claim they are losing out after Wolverhampton council granted more than 4,000 licences in just one year.

They say cabbies are flocking to the city council for licences because of its super-fast online application process, which takes 20 working days or less and costs just £69.

The key fact is that once they have their licence they are not required to operate only in Wolverhampton.

It has been branded a 'joke' by Shaz Saleem, who is the adviser for the West Midland Drivers' Association, which looks after 4,000 cab drivers.

Mr Saleem claimed some taxi drivers were taking advantage of a 'loophole', which allows applicants to receive new licences in Wolverhampton despite having it revoked by other councils.

Now it is claimed taxi drivers in neighbouring boroughs like Dudley are missing out on fares because of the increase in cabs on the roads.

Drivers cannot apply online in Walsall or Sandwell. But they can submit their application online in Dudley. However, all three are more expensive than Wolverhampton. It has proved lucrative for Wolverhampton, which made £1.29 million from taxi licensing in 2016/17. The Deregulation Act 2015 means private hire operators and drivers can choose where they apply for their licences.

## Motorist in court over crash death

A DRIVER accused of killing a mother in a car crash has appeared in court.

Tyler Kendall, of Whitebeam Close, Dudley, came before Walsall Magistrates' Court on April 4.

He is charged with causing the death of Vikki Jones by dangerous driving and failing to stop after a road accident.

The 22-year-old, who wore a navy suit and white shirt, spoke only to confirm his details.

Prosecutors allege Kendall drove a BMW dangerously in Lower Gornal, Dudley, on September 22 last year.

Kendall was released on bail and is due before Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 2.

Ms Jones, 30, died after the incident in Wood Road.

## Monkeys business

ARCTIC Monkeys have announced a gig in Birmingham. The Sheffield rockers play Arena Birmingham as part of a tour on Saturday, September 15, supported by The Lemon Twigs. Tickets on sale tomorrow (Friday).

# Becky's film about reaching for help



Becky Lawley – dealing with anxiety

A TEENAGER, who struggled with mental health conditions and even attempted to take her own life, has made a film to raise awareness about social anxiety.

Becky Lawley suffered with crippling anorexia, depression and anxiety for eight years and now she wants young people to be given the tools to help recognise signs of social anxiety before things 'get too far'.

With Fixers – the charity that gives young people a voice to campaign on the issues that matter to them – the 19-year-old from Dudley has made

a film to help others recognise the signs of social anxiety and give them strength to reach out for help.

She said: "My campaign is about understanding emotions and mental health. This is something I am passionate about and I know so many people who either have a diagnosed mental health condition or are struggling with their emotional wellbeing."

Becky first started to feel depressed and anxious after she started secondary school. By the age of 12 she was self-harming and throwing away her meals – and had to be supervised dur-

ing school hours to help reduce her anxiety and stress.

Before she found Fixers, she designed postcards that illustrated different emotions to help others understand their feelings.

Becky, who volunteers as a Local Health Champion, said: "The film features my own art from the postcards that explore different emotions and feelings, and an audio about being able to recognise how you feel and being able to reach out for help."

To watch Becky's film, visit [fixers.org.uk](http://fixers.org.uk).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Two boys, 12, are mugged for £1

TWO schoolboys were attacked by a group of masked men with the thugs shoving the pair to the ground before making off with just a pound.

The attack happened as the 12-year-old boys were making their way home from school in Halesowen a fortnight ago.

Police say the boys were walking through the subway under the Queen's Way at Great Cornbow when they were confronted by a gang covering their faces with scarves and balaclavas. The attack happened between 3.20pm and 4.10pm on March 29. One boy had cuts and grazes and both were left shaken.

### Manilow magic at city centre venue

BARRY Manilow will play a show for fans in Birmingham this autumn.

The Brooklyn-born superstar will perform at Arena Birmingham due to 'overwhelming public demand', says the venue. The singer-songwriter, aged 74, has recorded and released 47 top 40 singles and is best known for songs such as Mandy, Copacabana, I Write The Songs, Can't Smile Without You and Could It Be Magic.

Barry Manilow will play Birmingham on Tuesday, September 4. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am.

### Walk aims to be picture perfect

WALKERS with an interest in photography are being encouraged to enter a new competition as part of this year's Dudley Trail.

Budding photographers are being asked to capture interesting images from the borough.

This year's event on May 6 offers walks of six, nine, 12, 20 and 28 miles – taking in hidden beauty spots and areas of industrial heritage. All walks will start from Dudley Leisure Centre at designated times between 8am and 12 noon. See [himplleyhallandpark.co.uk/dudleytrail](http://himplleyhallandpark.co.uk/dudleytrail) for details.

### Easter egg hunt raises cracking £5k at hospice

YOUNGSTERS helped to raise more than £5,000 in an Easter egg hunt.

Each year Mary Stevens Hospice hosts an egg hunt and coffee morning for its supporters – which this year saw a record number of 300 children take part on March 31. Every child was given the chance to follow clues, complete challenges including sack race and an egg and spoon race, join craft activities and, ultimately, find as many chocolate eggs as they could.

## All ale to the memory of Duncan



Jim Cadman and Ian King at Sadler's Brewery, Lye, celebrate the new Duncan Edwards tribute ale

DRINKERS will be able to raise a glass to football legend Duncan Edwards later this year after Sadler's Brewery announced it is creating a special tribute ale.

It will be launched at the 60th anniversary dinner on October 11, which the firm is also sponsoring.

But people will be able to sam-

ple it for the first time at a special Duncan Edwards night on May 1 at the Brewhouse in Lye. At that free admission event the special guest will be Alex Stepney.

He will be talking about Duncan and recalling his own night at Wembley 50 years ago – in 1968 – when he was a member of the

Manchester United team who won the European Cup for the first time. October's dinner is at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

Manchester United and England icon Duncan, born in Dudley, was one of eight players who died following the Munich air disaster in 1958.

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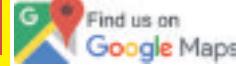
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# Carillion's city HQ up for sale at £3m

THE former Wolverhampton headquarters of Carillion has gone up for sale with a price tag of £3 million in the wake of the liquidation process.

That means it has halved in value since it last changed hands just two years ago.

Property agents Bulleys and JLL have been jointly appointed to market the property at 84 Salop Street, which is known as Carillion House.

It was not owned by Carillion, who lease it for around £440,000 a year. It was bought by an unnamed private investor for £6.165m in January 2016.

Less than 220 people are left working at the offices out of the 460 originally based there when the infrastructure giant collapsed in January.

It became Carillion's headquarters in 2015 after the lease expired on its former Peal Street home, and around

600 staff were based there at one point.

The building is offered for freehold sale and is due to be available with vacant possession, although Carillion and its liquidators PwC are currently in occupation, continuing to pay an annual rent of £437,405.

The detached building is on a 0.65 acre site next to the Chapel Ash Island in the city centre. There is around

37,338 sq ft of office space over six floors, with 32 parking spaces. The property comes with a nearby car park with another 58 spaces on Stephenson Street.

Noel Muscutt, partner at Bulleys, said: "The offices were comprehensively refurbished in 2015." Ben Kelly, director at JLL added: "We are seeking offers in excess of £3,000,000 for the freehold interest."

# Group refuse to give up on battle for Hippodrome

CAMPAIGNERS insists the fight to save Dudley Hippodrome will go on as the group marks six years since it was set up.

Members of the Dudley Hippodrome Community Group packed out the Ex Servicemen's Club in Hall Street to plan their next steps.

The group has a newly-launched petition looking to win support for their scheme to bring the Castle Hill landmark – which is about to celebrate its 80th anniversary – back to life as a venue for the Black Country.

Gordon Downing, aged 81, chairman of the group, said: "The aim of the petition is to get people's backing to say they are interested in bringing this building back to life again."

"It is not for me but I want to bring the building back for children."

"We have actually got around 12 or 13,000 signatures from a few years ago but a new one online petition is also gaining signatures."

"We are back as the Dudley Hippodrome Community Group and we intend on not going away. We shall have a big input into what happens to that building in the future."

The council took back control of the building earlier this year saying the campaign group could not raise enough money to see their plans through.

There has been speculation that the site could be used by Dudley College. But campaigners wanting to see it re-open as a venue say their fight is still on and planned to take their message to the town's market on Monday. Campaigner Angela Fletcher said it was all about showing the council how much public support they have.

# Man accused over teenager's kidnap

A MAN has appeared in court charged over the kidnap of a teenager in Dudley.

Morrad Hussain, aged 33, was arrested by officers in Netherton on Good Friday.

He was wanted in connection with the kidnap and assault of a 19-year-old man in Dudley five days before.

On March 31, specialist officers executed a warrant at Hussain's home address in Himley Road, Dudley.

The road was closed for a short time but no further arrests were made.

Hussain was charged and appeared at Walsall Magistrates' court on April 2. He faces counts of kidnap and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

He was remanded into custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 30.

# First blades bin set up in fight on knife crime

By Annabel Bagdi

**A HAUL** of dangerous blades could soon be off the town's streets after Dudley's first knife bin was unveiled.

The weapons surrender bin now stands in the town in an attempt to curb a rise in knife crime sweeping across the region.

It is the latest to be installed in the West Midlands, with a total of 14 now in the area.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, officially launched the knife bin last week, said: "The bins are providing people with a safe way to dispose of knives which they shouldn't be carrying. Every knife posted into a surrender bin is potentially a life saved."

"These bins work best when the community wants them and in Dudley that's the message we have received loud and clear."

The new safe and secure metal container, designed for residents to dispose of their knives, was unveiled at Tesco Extra, at the Birmingham Road retail park. Other bins are located in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and West Bromwich, with more expected to be installed in the coming months.

Peter Marsh, of the Dudley Rotary Club, who helped organise the installation of the new knife bin, said: "The knife bins are a fantastic idea – I knew Dudley should have one too. We all know there is a problem across the country with knife crime and these bins are a very useful tool to help tackle it. If anyone in Dudley has a knife which they shouldn't, then I'd urge them to use the bin."

The Express and Star is running a campaign calling for tougher sentences for people carrying a weapon. See [change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-knife-possession-should-have-stiffer-sentences](https://change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-knife-possession-should-have-stiffer-sentences)

## Chancellor gets swept away on visit



Chancellor Philip Hammond takes a closer look during his visit to Westfield Sportscars in Kingswinford

FROM runway sweepers to people movers – Chancellor Philip Hammond was shown around the latest autonomous vehicles being developed in the Black Country.

Mr Hammond was given a tour of Westfield Sports-cars' base in Kingswinford, Dudley, by director Frank Turner yesterday.

The company started as a kit car firm but in recent years it has diversified, taking on new technology such as autonomous vehicles.

Mr Hammond was shown a runway sweeper planned for Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai. It is being developed in partnership with Johnston Sweepers.

A driverless pod was also at Westfield Sportscars, based on the Gibbons Industrial Park, following a successful eight-week trial in Greenwich, where it had been used for a shuttle service.

It will next go to the Lake District and Manchester for further testing.

Mr Hammond said: "I'm always interested in seeing businesses operating at the cutting edge of technology and what I'm seeing here is very interesting and very significant for the decarbonisation of our vehicle fleet, moving to autonomous vehicles in the future, so it is great to see what is going on here."

## 11pc in region are planning business

MORE than one in 10 people in the West Midlands have plans to open a small business according to a survey by Axa Business Insurance.

The 11 per cent for the region compares to 13 per cent nationally which Axa says amounts to seven million latent entrepreneurs, who have advanced plans for a business but are being held back from launching.

The national survey of 8,500 saw 19 per cent in London say they have plans for a business.

The biggest untapped source of business activity is among the under 25s, where 27 per cent have a business idea and wish to start it.

## Charity honoured for its team spirit

MIDLANDS Air Ambulance has won an award demonstrating its commitment to investing in local people. The Investors in People and Investors in Volunteers accolade was handed out at a recent review at the charity's headquarters in Stourbridge, and the West Bromwich charity shop.

Employees and volunteers were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences with Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, and the reports noted a clear team spirit and enthusiasm.

## Young chefs told to give peas a chance

YOUNG chefs in the Midlands are being invited to enter their recipe creations for the chance to be crowned Young Pea Chef of the Year.

Run by the Yes Peas campaign and the Ocado Foundation, three winners will receive £500 towards a grow-your-own school project and there's a top prize of a personalised cooking hamper worth £50. Log on at <https://youngpeachef.co.uk/> for details.

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# Big drop in passengers on Metro due to works

THE Midland Metro has suffered a drop in passenger numbers with usage down a fifth on Sundays according to new figures.

Overall, the network linking Wolverhampton with Birmingham city centre via West Bromwich saw a nine per cent fall in travelling customers in January, compared to the same month last year.

But weekend travel has been worst hit, with the number of passengers on Saturday down 18 per cent and Sunday down 20 per cent.

Bosses say custom has been impacted by the replacement track works in Bilston Road, which caused disruption before being completed in December.

The project lasted six months and meant the operating line could only go as far as Priestfield Metro Stop, not to Wolverhampton city centre.

A Transport for West Midlands spokesman added: "People get used to alternative modes of travel so it can take a bit of time to get back to where it was before. We expect this to improve in the coming months."

Work has now started on extending the line to Wolverhampton railway station.

Plans are also in the pipeline for a new line from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill and the Merry Hill shopping centre via Dudley. The 11km route with 17 stops is expected to open in 2022.

## Childcare prices soar since 2010

THE cost of childcare in the West Midlands has nearly doubled since 2010. Parents and carers in the region are now having to fork out between 39 and 46 per cent more in childcare compared to eight years ago.

Wages have only risen about 16 per cent in the same period, leaving some families struggling, claims the Labour Party. Campaigners have criticised government for 'failing to deliver affordable, sustainable childcare'.

Figures from the Family and Child-care Trust's annual survey of childcare costs show the cost of 25 hours of childcare across the West Midlands has risen by £31.52 for under two year olds, £33.41 for nursery ages two and up, £27.72 for childminding under two and £28.09 for ages two and up.

## 50 Cent in Brum

RAPPER 50 Cent will play a gig in Birmingham this September. The star will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of his debut album Get Rich Or Die Tryin'. Tickets for the show go on sale on Monday at 9am.

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# Suspect's death in cell was drug-related

A SUSPECT locked in a Black Country police cell suffered a drug-related death, an inquest has ruled.

Unemployed Christopher Morgan fell from his bunk and onto the floor while sleeping in a cell at Oldbury custody suite on September 21 last year.

He was discovered 'unresponsive' by a police officer conducting regular patrols on the wing but resuscitation attempts failed to revive him.

Jurors at Black Country Coroner's Court deliberated for just under 90 minutes before recording a conclusion of drug-related death.

During the two-day inquest, jurors heard Mr Morgan was arrested in Wolverhampton on suspicion of theft and possession of class A drugs and taken to the Bromford Road suite.

The suspect, of Slaney Road, Walsall, was alleged to have stolen items from a shop and was found with cocaine.

He was initially placed on 30-minute observations but officers were later told to check on him every hour after a medical assessment.

Mr Morgan was later charged and remanded into police custody to appear before magistrates but refused to move to a different cell block with other suspects waiting to go to court.

Pathologist Dr Alexander Kolar revealed the medical cause of death was coronary artery atheroma - heart disease - influenced by cocaine usage. He told jurors there were 10 injuries on Mr Morgan's body but these were not as a result of his time in custody.

Mr Morgan, who used cocaine and heroin daily, also suffered a fractured ribcage caused by attempts to resuscitate him.

The pathologist told the court CCTV from Mr Morgan's cell showed the 38-year-old falling from his bunk and making 'epileptiform movements' just before 1.30am.

He went on to say Mr Morgan suffered with narrowed arteries which could lead to a 'risk of sudden, unexpected death'.

The jury of five men and four women also heard Mr Morgan, who was pronounced dead at 2.25am, tested positive for opiates and negative for cocaine while in custody.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Wedding venue fee hike proposed

CHARGES are set to be hiked at wedding venues in Dudley. Council bosses are proposing increasing fees at the Priory and Wollscote Suites.

Prices for bookings for weddings and other celebrations will rise by £10 every year until 2020/21 for weddings, under the plans. It means by 2020/21, fees will rise to £230 on Monday to Thursday and £400 on Saturdays.

Nationality checking fees - which covers the process for checking British passports and citizenships - will go up by £5 and £10 over the next two financial years.

Council chiefs will decide on the plans at a meeting on April 19.

### May the Lego force be with you

A STAR Wars themed Lego exhibition has opened for the summer at Himley Hall. The free admission Amor Lamine Lego exhibition runs until 30 September at the stately home on the Dudley borough-South Staffs border.

Star Wars fans can view a series of themed displays including an Ewok village, the Millennium Falcon, desert and ice plateau with figures and vehicles.

Visitors can also see other items from the Technic and Creator Expert Lego ranges, including a model of Sydney Opera House.

### Choirs united at hospice concert

FORMER Crackerjack TV host Don Maclean will be the compere at a choral concert in Dudley next month.

Voices in Harmony from Cradley Heath will be joined by three guest vocal groups for its 21st anniversary charity concert.

Voices in Harmony will be singing in Dudley Town Hall on May 12 at 7pm with Viva Musica, Gentlemen Songsters and Colla Voce. The concert will be raising money for Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets are available from the box office or Melanie Fletcher on 07702 997320.

### Former Scout hut has price tag of £65,000

A FORMER Scout base is up for sale, priced at £65,000.

The land off Douglas Road in Dudley is being marketed by Cottons.

It features a single storey former Scout Hut, in a dilapidated condition.

Planning permission was granted for two homes at the site in January.

The site was used by 2nd Dudley Scout Group until 2006, when the group disbanded.

# Yow ready for a bostin' big Black Country party?

### THE countdown to this year's Black Country Day celebrations has begun.

The annual Black Country Festival this year promises to be the biggest and best yet, with dozens of events taking place across the region.

The festival, which is now in its fifth year, runs between June 30 and July 29, and will include fun days, carnivals, festivals, golf tournaments, transport shows and other activities lined up over the month.

Each bostin' celebration is designed to bring the Black Country communities across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall together.

A month's worth of celebrations are now being firmed up across the region for Black Country Festival - including a large family fun day in Dudley town centre.

Other events lined up include Gornal Fun Day, a fun run in Halesowen, Halesowen Carnival, Stourbridge Carnival, Brierley Hill's Brier Fair and more.

#### Pride

Black Country Day is the highlight of the festival and will take place on July 14. The Dudley fun day, set to include live entertainment in Stone Street Square, a 'radio roadshow', vintage cars and motorbikes, and stalls, will take place on this date to mark the occasion. The event will run between 10am and 5pm.

Looking ahead to the festival, Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, said: "We want to see people flying their Black Country flag with pride and support the many events taking place to celebrate the region we call home."

"With less than 100 days to go and a fantastic line-up of events already confirmed, this year's Black Country Festival won't disappoint."

Dave Brownhill, chairman of the Black Country Festival, added: "The festival owes many of its successes to the local groups, organisations and volunteers who help make it happen and to the people of the Black Country who turn out each year without fail to support the events."

"Although we have already got some cracking events taking place, there is still time to get involved and add events to the festival line-up."

"I would urge anyone with a great idea for an



Dudley Mayor Dave Tyler with Miss Black Country Alexandra Darby and the Fizzogs get ready for the festival

event, whether it is big and small, to get in touch, we would love to hear all about them."

The festival is organised by a committee of volunteers and is supported by Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils.

Gornal Fun Day will kick the festivities off on Saturday, June 30, with a Punch and Judy show, facepainting, fair rides, a bouncy castle, vintage cars and bikes, a barbecue, a combat re-enactment,

birds of prey and stalls. The historic windmill will also be open to the public. The free event will run from noon to 4pm.

Armed Forces Day will be marked at Himley Hall on July 1, a Food Festival will be held at the Bonded Warehouse, in Canal Street, in Stourbridge on July 6, while the Chainmakers Festival will take place at Cradley Heath High Street on July 7.

For more information visit [expressandstar.co.uk](http://expressandstar.co.uk)

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# Date at the dentist's? Google can fill in gaps

WHERE were you between 4pm and 5pm on November 1 last year? Most of us would probably struggle to answer that question, unless something memorable happened at that time.

Well I've just discovered I was at the dentist. Which in itself is not big news, but what is worrying is where I have just got that information from.

Now, maybe I'm naive, and I would certainly never profess any expertise in new technology, but it never occurred to me when I got my first smart phone three years ago that the good people at Google would be tracking my movements every minute of the day.

But now, having had my attention drawn to the data file that the technology giant keeps on all of its users, I now know that on November 1, 2017, I arrived at the dentist at 4.09pm, and left 4.51.

Google records also show what time I left for work that morning, what route I took, and what time I arrived. It records that I left work at 3.25pm that day because of my dental appointment, and took a slightly different route back.

And that the return journey was a minute quicker than the one in the morning. Is it just me, or is this a touch sinister?

Let's be a realist. We all know that nobody gives you something for nothing, least of all American internet giants, and I always thought that Mark Zuckerberg was a wrong 'un the moment I saw a picture of him giving an interview in flip-flops. But while most of us knew the likes of Google and Facebook were making money out of us one way or another, did any of us really have any idea of how these companies were stockpiling even the most intimate of personal details in order to build these incredibly detailed profiles of us all?

Our interests, our opinions and attitudes, our health and our movements are all analysed in forensic detail, in order to calculate which types of advertising we are most susceptible too.

If the Government tried to monitor us in this way there would be a revolution. Yet unelected, unaccountable tech giants have been doing it for years without us knowing.

Maybe it's closing the door after the horse has bolted, but perhaps the answer is we should all put entirely spurious and inaccurate information on social media.

But one other question. How come car security companies are still charging £400 to fit a tracker, and £150 a year to monitor it, when Google has been doing it for nothing all the time?

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# Queueing dilemma can lead to a frenzy

IT was the dilemma which has plagued polite society for many a year. On entering the foyer during a recent visit to the theatre, we found ourselves at the end of two queues waiting to clear security or, in reality, convince the staff they had nothing of consequence in their bags.

So, it should be a 50-50 choice as to which queue we join . . . or is it? Just at the crucial moment, someone who had come behind us asked if they could proceed down a third channel, which at first glance either led nowhere or wasn't meant for queueing at all.

"Sure," said the door operative, "you can use all three." So off we toddle, trying not to look at the two obedient queues who must be thinking we are VIP guests or have special tickets for the show.

And after carefully looking straight ahead, of fear of incurring the wrath of the two stationary lines, we fast-tracked ourselves into the main body of the theatre and settled into our seats.

In this case, we made the queueing system work for us, but it's not always like that. Take the bus queue, for instance. Once upon a time, everyone joined the end of the queue.

These days, it's not so straightforward. With sometimes several services pulling in at one stop, a frenzy can overtake even the most patient types, whose main intention is to get on that bus before it leaves without them. Consequently, you will see a throng hovering around the head of the queue waiting to pounce as soon as their bus comes into sight.

The one place you can expect to see disciplined queueing is in a bank. Or at least the one I use. Given four machines in a row, customers are content to form just one queue and file off when an ATM becomes available. In fact that particular discipline must be so deeply ingrained in some of us that the American author Bill Bryson once observed it was what set the English apart from many other countries, where a free-for-all mentality reigns or people are expected to "stay in lane" once they have chosen their queue.

While not quite a national obsession anymore, queueing has given rise to a phrase which we use without thinking. How often, on hearing someone announce their intention to be the next to do something, have you said (or been tempted to say) "Oi, join the queue."

And what of our evening at the theatre? The show ended on a high note, with the audience in equally high spirits, which may explain the rush to leave the building . . . to get to the front of the taxi queue, of course.

STEVE PARLETT



Esther McVey – calling for more kids to do part-time jobs



Dita Von Teese – reveals how hard it is to keep her much-scrutinised skin so pale



Yulia Skripal – the daughter of former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal

# Nerve agent case: Lessons to learn

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AS the Salisbury nerve-agent incident develops, lessons will be learned. The most important point, wisely made from the outset by Jeremy Corbyn, is that in crises such as this you should never rush ahead of what the evidence is telling you. Theresa May was far too hasty to blame the Russian state. Boris Johnson was irresponsible in pinning it on Putin. Can anyone else see this ending with an apology?

WE might also ask where the Daily Star got its theory that Mr Skripal and his daughter "could have been sprayed with the nerve agent from a remote-controlled drone hovering above them as they sat on a bench in Salisbury." This Mission Impossible yarn was attributed to "intelligence sources." Yeah, right.

DITA Von Teese, the doyenne of burlesque performers, has marked her 45th birthday by revealing to the Guardian how hard it is to keep her much-scrutinised skin so pale, living in sunny Los Angeles. A reader responded thus: "Seems like a nice lass. If she really wants to stay pale she should come live with me in east Manchester."

AND talking of dressing up. There is a certain irony in Eddie Izzard being appointed to Labour's national executive as a direct result of the anti-Semitism row. While right-on liberals admire Izzard's endless charity work and unwavering commitment to the EU, and smile indulgently at his fondness for frocks and lipstick, did anyone think to ask conservative Jews and Muslims what their religions say about cross-dressing? Thought not.

A CALIFORNIAN teacher who also serves as a reserve police officer was demonstrating gun

safety to his class when, well, you can guess what happened next. The gun went off and three students were wounded. It's a reminder that few things are as unpredictable as people and guns.

FOLLOWING this incident a reader, worried by plans to arm US teachers, wonders how long it will be before a maniac deliberately targets a fully-armed school to see how many teachers he can kill before they kill him – a variation on the "suicide by cop" madness.

BUT I suspect the first death-by-teacher killing will be less dramatic. There's nothing like a handgun on your hip for escalating a trivial argument to homicide. Be prepared for a US teacher killing another teacher in a staff-room dispute over who washes the coffee mugs or who's been dallying with whom in the stockroom.

FOR a moment, let's overlook the offence caused to Jews by Jeremy Corbyn choosing to meet one of the very few Jewish organisations that other Jews find repellent. What about the offence Christians might feel at Corbyn mixing with a group whose name sounds the same as the most despised character in the Easter story – Jewdas? It is as crass as dropping in for a snack at the Haddoff Hyttler Bavarian Deli. Corbyn always comes up with some wide-eyed, plausible excuse but why does he keep putting himself in such awkward positions? For his advisers it must be like trying to teach a simple

lesson to a particularly truculent child, over and over again. Lest we forget, in a throwaway remark last year, Corbyn said: "I don't consider myself the world's greatest intellectual."

STRANGE how many memories have been stirred by the Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey calling for more kids to do part-time jobs. My first Saturday job was for a couple of workaholic butchers who slogged from 5am to 6pm and made a fortune in the process. They were a hard-bitten pair. Both had served in the infantry during the war and seen all the inhumanity that man could inflict on man. They swore endlessly, insulted the customers and staff alike, and routinely denounced me as an idle little arse. And yet one Saturday morning I saw these hard nuts weeping like babies in the shop as the news came of a terrible accident at a place called Aberfan. You never forget the first time you see men cry.

ONE of the things the ever-whingeing millennial generation fails to grasp is how hard-up we babyboomers were in years gone by. Everything you needed in life, from food and clothes to washing machines and lawnmowers, was cripplingly expensive. We simply did not possess the quantity or quality of things that people take for granted today. Which is why the final scene in the revived Generation Game (BBC) was a pale imitation of the 1970s original. Back then, people really wanted those prizes. Today, as the contestants acquired their items, you couldn't help feeling that the canteen of cutlery would go straight in the attic and the telescope would be sold on eBay. In a world glutted with consumer goods, who cares about an extra toaster?



# Worker at Asda stole £2,800 haul of goods

## Mothers have their say



Julie Oakley with James, aged five months, at the workshop

MORE than 100 mothers have shared their experience of maternity care in the Black Country.

Senior health professionals met up with those attending workshops across Dudley and Birmingham in efforts to address the re-shaping of maternity care within the region.

The response will help form an action plan for Black Country maternity which will outline how ser-

A SUPERMARKET worker stole almost £3,000 worth of goods in six weeks from his employer, a court heard.

Javed Miah worked at the Asda store in Dudley for seven months before turning to crime, a judge heard. The 25-year-old, who was in debt, ordered goods from the shop and then arranged for other people to pick them up without paying for them.

He balanced the books by claiming a refund on each item that had been taken but this still left the store with a stock shortage, said Mr Richard McConaghay, prosecuting.

Mr McConaghay explained that the £2,800 haul included computer game consoles and other electrical goods.

Miah, who was responsible for the click and collect section of the store, as well as home deliveries, refused to name those who picked up the stolen goods. But he stressed they were simply doing him a favour and were not involved in the racket.

### Resigned

It ran between November 22 and December 31 last year but was uncovered by supermarket chiefs, who became alarmed by the abnormal number of refunds being recorded.

An internal investigation was launched during which the defendant admitted he was responsible for the disappearance of the items which had been sold. He resigned and police were alerted, the court heard.

Mr Anthony Cartin, defending, said: "The refund was sought to cover up the original purchase for which money had not been taken by the store."

"Then it was sold by him. The till would never be down but the stock was. As soon as he was disciplined by the store he resigned."

Miah from Beechwood Road, West Bromwich, who was of previous good character, pleaded guilty to fraud by abuse of position and was given a community order with 200 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to Asda.

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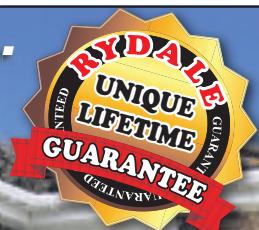
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# Breach calls referendum into question

THE recent discovery that the Brexit 'leave' campaign was in breach of election rules, having spent something in the region of 50 per cent more than the Government-prescribed limit for the campaign, and the response of the Government, raises serious concerns about the integrity of the entire process.

I have acted as election agent for political candidates in the past and I know the rules that apply. I can safely say that any such actions of overspend-

## Borrow to solve crisis over homes

WHILE Dudley Council might be celebrating the building of 'dozens of new council homes', it doesn't even replace the hundreds they sell off each year under the Right-to-Buy scheme.

The headlines suggest our council is doing something about providing enough affordable homes, when in reality it continues to get worse. 'Generation Rent' is a reality for younger adults, who often end up in expensive 'rip-off' private rented properties, unable to save for a deposit to buy, or face the prospect of living with their parents into their 30s. Or even worse, the streets await.

The solution is simple. If the Government simply removed the restrictions on council's borrowing to build, and accounted for this the same as Germany and France, hundreds of thousands of new eco-friendly affordable homes could be built, without costing the tax-payer a penny.

TONY BARNESLEY  
Dudley

MR A DRING  
Kingswinford

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## City estate's link to classical music great

THE classical music scene is presently celebrating the centenary of the death of the great French composer Claude Debussy. Readers may be interested to know that there is a Wolverhampton connection to the great man.

In 1888 the international singer Maggie Teyte was born and spent her early years living on the Cortaulds estate. By the time she reached teenage years the family had moved to London and Maggie was developing as a talented singer. She came to the notice of the Opera Comique in Paris which brought her to the attention of Debussy who was looking for a replacement for the lead role in his new opera Pelleas and Melisande. Maggie Teyte was a great success. What an achievement from her humble beginnings.

LEN HALES  
Cradley Heath

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Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes

the business across the country. Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

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# Old canal bridge to have £30k restoration

AN old canal bridge in the Black Country is on its way to restoration after council bosses approved £30,000 for the project.

The cash will bring back to life the Grade II-listed Blackbrook Junction Bridge on the Dudley No.2 Canal in Netherton. Netherton councillor Christine Perks welcomed the move saying the restoration would benefit the area.

Dudley Council's cabinet approved the funding at a meeting in February with the cash to come from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

It is thought the bridge dates back to the 19th century when the canal was built. In its current state the bridge is covered by graffiti.

## Heron

Councillor Perks said: "I think this is great news. I am a great fan of canals and a member of the Canal and River Trust. There are some fabulous walks along the canals."

"You now see herons flying around the canal. When we were children we never saw them."

The bridge forms part

Amy has sight set on marathon challenge



Amy Shillingford

by Jamie Brassington

of Blackbrook Road which runs between Hill Street and Narrowboat Way. The road is open to the public but no longer to motor vehicles, said Councillor Perks.

The bridge will be looked after by the Canal and River Trust - which maintains waterways around England - a council report said.

The report said: "The cabinet considered a report on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and approved spend of £30,000 of CIL income, being a contribution to the costs of the restoration of the Grade II-listed Blackbrook Junction Bridge on the Dudley No.2 Canal in Saltwells Nature Reserve, which is to be managed by the Canal & River Trust."

The London Marathon will be Amy's first and she has had to fit in her training while looking after her two children, aged six and three. Amy said: "I wanted to prove to myself and my children that anything is possible if you put your mind to it."

Amy hopes to cross the finish line in four and a half hours, and has already raised more than £2,000. To donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/amy-shillingford](http://www.justgiving.com/amy-shillingford).

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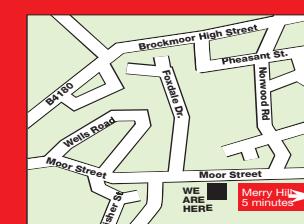
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Orchids are the topic of guest's talk

Clent Gardening Club

THE March meeting welcomed guest speaker John Spires from Wombourne to present a talk on orchids.

John is well known to the club as he acts as the horticultural judge at its annual flower show in September.

He gave a well balanced and informative talk starting with an introduction to the species which, he advised, can be found all around the world with the exception of Antarctica. There are many varieties, including a large variety growing wild in the UK.

After his introduction, John gave advice on the care and cultivation of orchids in the home describing the best conditions and locations for growing these plants.

John then gave a practical demonstration of how to successfully re-pot an orchid plant although he also observed that, as these plants flower for several months and are relatively cheap to buy it is often simpler to replace with a new plant.

John completed his talk with a fine selection of photographs illustrating a wide variety of these colourful and varied plants. After a lively question and answer session a vote of thanks was proposed by Les Salters.

After a tea break the chairman drew the raffle and announced the results of the monthly competitions. April 27 is the annual joint meeting with the Belbroughton Horticultural Society. Tamsin Westhorpe will give a talk entitled "Life as a Gardening Editor".

Tickets £7.50 each with a raffle to be held

# Silence in tribute to founder member

## Pressing matters from former editor

Stourbridge Ladies

THE Ladies Society had started the year with the AGM in January, followed by a successful bring and buy in February. Despite the weather of snow and sunshine the meeting was well attended with the money raised going to the Society's funds.

John Butterworth the guest speaker at the March meeting He gave a very interesting talk on how the Black Country Bugle came into being and gave the fascinating origins of some of the stories that have made headlines on its front page.

He then went on to tell how he became a journalist. Instead of going to university he applied for an apprenticeship in journalism with the Mirror newspaper. He was given one of only eight places and sent to Plymouth where he learned on the job, with

a wage of £18 per week. After this, he worked on several newspapers including the Bromsgrove Messenger and the Shrewsbury Chronicle as editor, raising money for charity through his newspaper campaigns. He eventually became the editor of the Black Country Bugle, an appointment he held for three years.

Stourbridge Ladies Soci-

ety meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Amblecote Room, Stourbridge Town Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome. There are interesting speakers and finish the meeting with tea and chat.

The next meeting is on April 24 when Dereck Walker will demonstrate hanging baskets.

John completed his talk with a fine selection of photographs illustrating a wide variety of these colourful and varied plants. After a lively question and answer session a vote of thanks was proposed by Les Salters.

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Tickets £7.50 each with a raffle to be held

## Evening of flower arranging

Inner Wheel Sedgley & Wombourne

THE Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wombourne are hosting an evening of flower arranging by Andrew Lloyd later this month.

It takes place on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 for 7.30pm at Ounsdale High School Wombourne.

Tickets £7.50 each with a raffle to be held

and tea and coffee available. All proceeds will go to Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets are available from the following numbers: 01384 936127 or 07982236512.



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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



## Hello baby... it's the zoo's new arrival First lemur baby at zoo for 21 years

STAFF at Dudley Zoo are celebrating the birth of the first black and white ruffed lemur at the attraction in more than 20 years.

The lemur was born to first-time mother Olivia and dad Broom at the zoo on March 14.

The black and white ruffed lemur – which is classed as critically endangered in the wild – has only just been spotted popping out of its nesting box in the last few days. The currently unnamed lemur is yet to be sexed.

The last were born at the zoo in May 1997, twins Tony and Cherie – named as Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

Pat Stevens, section leader of upper primates, said: "It has been over 20 years and we are absolutely thrilled.

"They are the only primates whose babies stay in the nest for the first few weeks of their lives and it was wonderful to see our new little one make an appearance for Easter."

## Sporty store

STAFF at a Black Country supermarket are celebrating after raising more than £1,700 for Sport Relief.

The team at Sainsbury's in Amblecote took part in a variety of fund-raising activities during the weeks in the lead-up to Sport Relief on March 23. The store's activities included a trampolining and hula hoop challenge.

# Increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police

## I will miss my pal 'the Crafty Cockney'



'We'll never see anybody of his like again' says Nigel Pearson seen with Eric Bristow during a darts event held in Brierley Hill

'WE'LL never see anybody like Eric again – he was the image of darts for 20 years.'

Darts stars from the Black Country have paid tribute to the legacy of five-time world champion Eric Bristow after his death aged just 60.

The popular player, known as the Crafty Cockney, died after suffering a heart attack in Liverpool.

Sky Sports and Talk Sport commentator Nigel Pearson described Bris-

tow as a one-off. Nigel, who studied at Kingswinford School and Dudley College, worked alongside Bristow for years on the darts commentary circuit.

He said: "I'm humbled and proud to have worked with Eric on TV and at exhibitions for a number of years. What people saw on TV was exactly what he was like. He always told it how it was – whether in public or at the breakfast table.

"My life is certainly richer for meet-

ing Eric and getting to know him and work with him. To think I'll never see him again is awful – and we'll never see anybody of his like again, that's for sure."

Born in London, Bristow later relocated to Staffordshire. He was one of the 16 rebel darts players who left the BDO in 1993 and helped set up a new governing body – the PDC. This set the sport on the path to professionalism, greater TV revenue and huge crowds.

REPORTS of hate crime in the Black Country rose 11 per cent last year, according to new police figures.

A Freedom of Information request found there were 1,633 hate crimes reported in the four boroughs last year – compared to 1,472 in 2016. Walsall saw the largest growth in hate crime reports, with 74 more last year than 2016 while in Dudley there were 291 in 2017 up from 251 the previous year.

The figures show Wolverhampton actually recorded fewer reports, with 375 in 2017 compared to 389 the previous year, but Sandwell saw 624 reports in 2017 compared to 463 in 2016.

The total increase of 161 reports across the Black Country works out as an 11 per cent year-on-year rise.

Midlands MP Preet Gill, who is a former Sandwell Council cabinet member, said hate crime has been on the rise since the EU Referendum in 2016.

She said: "I think we've seen so much hate recently and it's been on the increase since the referendum decision. We've also seen a lot more online hate which has increased massively – particularly against women. On the one hand it's positive that more people are reporting these things, but the problem is still there and it's much bigger than we think it is."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "We are all extremely proud that the Black Country is a diverse area, where people from different backgrounds and cultures get on. That will not be allowed to change. Hate crime is not acceptable and tackling it is a priority.

"People in the West Midlands have different views on certain issues, but one thing that unites us is that we are tolerant, decent people who get on with each other. Hate crimes have been committed by a tiny minority of people."

## £250k fund to support crime victims

ORGANISATIONS supporting victims of crime are being invited to apply for up to £20,000 funding.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson set up a victim's fund about four years ago, which pays for support services for people traumatised by crime.

This year £250,000 is available and will be spent offering help to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, volume crime, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based violence, hate crime, fatal road traffic collisions and modern slavery.

Funding of up to £20,000 is available for each voluntary or community group that helps people cope. Mr Jamieson said: "Supporting victims of crime is one of my top priorities."

The deadline for applications is 5pm, June 1, at [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/victimsfund1819](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/victimsfund1819)

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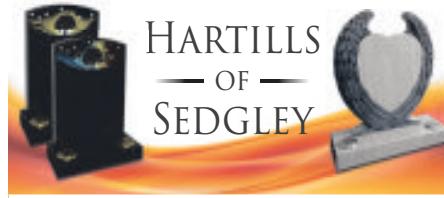
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# Vaccines bounce back



Put them on a T-shirt – The Vaccines fronted by Justin Young in action in Birmingham on Saturday night

"WE'VE been looking forward to this one," said The Vaccines frontman Justin Young. "Birmingham on a Saturday night."

And Birmingham did not let him down, the full house crowd exploding into a moshing mass as the re-energised indie rockers got things off to a incendiary start with pounding opener Nightclub.

The fact that song was treated like a greatest hit but comes off the band's fourth and latest album, Combat Sports, which had only been out for a week, shows that these former contenders have punched their way back to champion status in the hearts of young (and not-so-young) rock fans.

The crowd had been warmed up nicely by Anglo-Icelandic punk band Dream Wife. The up-and-coming female trio (plus male drummer) are feisty and ferocious with dynamic

## THE VACCINES, O2 ACADEMY, BIRMINGHAM

lead singer Rakel Mjöll holding the attention with her declamatory vocals, somewhat akin to both Björk and (for those with 1980s memories) Clare Crogan from Altered Images. Guitarist Alice Go sports the severest fringe since Dave Hill glam stomped all over the '70s. The stand-out songs were Heartbreaker and Somebody with its 'I am not my body, I am somebody' chant.

The Vaccines have admitted they lost their way after their previous album but, as someone who saw them in their earlier incarnation, I can testify they are back to their very best.

Bouncing onto the stage in his shades and stripy shirt, Young is one of the best frontmen around, a rab-

ble-rocker in the Ricky Wilson tradition, and is perfectly contrasted with super-cool suit wearing guitarist Freddie Cowan.

New songs Out On The Street, Your Love Is My Favourite Band, Surfing In The Sky and show closer I Can't Quit were greeted as enthusiastically as old favourites Teenage Icon, Dream Lover, Wetsuit, 20/20, Post Break-up Sex and Handsome. New song Put It On A T-shirt also slotted in brilliantly with the other encores No Hope and All In White.

The fresh material plays to The Vaccines' strengths, short, sharp, melodic blasts of pop/rock that make you want to dance.

The Vaccines' return to their rock and roll roots has really paid off and provided Brum with an early contender for gig of the year.

Leon Burakowski

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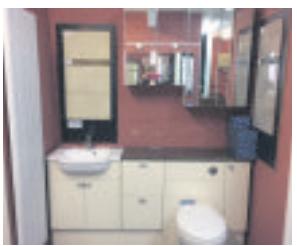


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# War heroes brought home

**"THEY are no longer just names on a memorial – I feel like I've brought them home".**

Four years ago genealogist Barbara Price began an emotional journey to research fallen soldiers from Sedgley who had died in the First World War.

She began with the 70 names listed on the war memorial at All Saints' Church in the town, including her great-uncle Private Bert Hughes who was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele on October 16, 1917, aged 29.

But as she delved deeper into their war records she realised there were many more men from the area who had given their lives for their country.

Since then Mrs Price, along with her husband Greg, has visited more than 100 memorials and cemeteries in England, France and Belgium as part of her quest and compiled profiles on 295 fallen soldiers from Sedgley, Hurst Hill and Lower and Upper Gornal.

"Just in this area alone there were 295 men who didn't come home. They lived close together, they fought alongside each other in the same regiments and many died together," she said. "As well as these men, there were 446 who fought in the war and did come home so in a small area, 700 plus men were involved."

For each soldier, Mrs Price has painstakingly researched details including where they lived, their occupation before enlisting and their family members as well as their military records.

Documents such as census records and soldier's wills proved invaluable in helping to piece the past together and she also used the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and family history resource Find My Past.

## Complete

For each profile Mrs Price has included a photograph of their grave or memorial and, where possible, a picture of the soldier. She is now appealing for help to complete the project and would like relatives to come forward with more information and photographs before publication in time for Remembrance Sunday.

An exhibition will take place at All Saints' Church Hall on May 5 and 6, from 10am to 4pm, where visitors will be able to view her findings. "Before it's all bound in a book to go on display, I would really like to make sure it's as complete as possible," she said.

It's also been a touching experience as she has been able to discover more about her own relatives. "There were nine soldiers in my family including seven from Sedgley. Of these four came back and three died," said the mother of two.

Her great-uncle Bert, who was born in Gospel End Street, Sedgley on April 2 1888, served in the 11th Battalion of South Wales Borders. One of nine children, he attended Queen Victoria School and later worked as a bricklayer's labourer. Mrs



Letter from The Somme by Alfred Hughes



The war memorial at All Saints' Church



Great-uncle – Private Bert Hughes



Barbara Price with the letter from her great-uncle Alfred Hughes



Private Alfred Hughes, who fought at the Battle of the Somme

Price said seeing his grave at Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension in France for the first time moved her to tears.

"I sat and cried. It had taken a while to track him down so it was tremendously emotional."

Her research into the soldiers who did come home from war also led her to find out more about another relative, her great-uncle Private Alfred Hughes, who was in the 8th (Service) Battalion of the South Staffordshire regiment. He originally enlisted on November 11 1914 but was discharged just eight days

later for having 'very defective teeth'. "We know he enlisted again and was posted to the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1916," Mrs Price added.

Pte Hughes went on to fight at the Battle of the Somme in 1915. He was discharged in 1918 and married Anne Middleton the following year. He died on December 2, 1945, aged 59 and is buried at All Saints' churchyard extension.

To share information for The Soldiers of World War One Exhibition email [ww1archive@allsaintssedgley.com](mailto:ww1archive@allsaintssedgley.com)

## Drop in for answers on business festival

A DROP-IN 'open house' session is being held ahead of the first Black Country Business Festival.

Members of the business community can visit the Black Country Chamber of Commerce office today (Thursday) to ask any questions about the upcoming events.

It will run at the office in the Creative Industries Centre, University of Wolverhampton Science Park, Glashier Drive, from 11am to 3pm.

Organisers Associate Events will be on hand to offer help to any business or individuals about the festival that runs from April 23 to May 4.

Alister de Ternant, managing director of Associate Events, said, "This is a free, drop-in session for anyone to come along and speak to us about anything to do with the Festival. There is no need to register."

The festival is originated by the chamber and its partner DV5 – Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone. There will be 122 events in the two-week programme, making it the region's biggest business event. For details and tickets visit [www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com](http://www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com).

## Brewery to reopen village pub after refit

A BREWERY has announced the opening date for its 32nd pub. Pensnett-based Black Country Ale (BCA) is reopening of The Cross at Finstall, near Bromsgrove, on April 26 at noon.

The brewery bought the village pub's freehold just before Christmas and carried out a major refurbishment.

Initially, food will be bar snacks including locally produced pork pies. Ryan Carr is returning as licensee and is currently recruiting staff.

Last year, BCA opened real ale pubs in Stourbridge and The Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham, as well as transforming the former Barclays Bank in Bewdley.

## Star Reader Travel

### The Tina Turner Musical

Nobody ever did storming, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, one of the best-selling artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation and free time in London, this isn't just a great deal – it's Simply the Best!

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## FAMILY MATTERS IN BLOOD BROTHERS

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# Stage roles like this are in my blood . . .

**R**eturning to *Blood Brothers* is like greeting an old friend for actress Lyn Paul, who found fame with the *New Seekers* in the early 1970s before finding more recent success and critical acclaim in the long-running West End musical.

For 20 years, she has played the part of Mrs Johnstone at the Phoenix Theatre and on a UK tour. There are times when you'd expect her to know it in her sleep.

"You know what, strangely enough, I was lying in bed the other night going through the opening song and I reached one part, but for the life of me couldn't remember the rest of it, and I had to get up and go downstairs to get the script and go through it! At 4 o'clock in the morning, ridiculous! So it's playing on my mind obviously (laughs)!"

The show will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday until April 21, after surpassing 10,000 performances in London's West End.

Fans can look forward to a glitzy production of a musical that has been christened the 'Standing Ovation Musical', with a score including Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotive hit Tell Me It's Not True.

We caught up with Lyn to find out what she loves about the new touring production:

"I will treat it like a new show. Obviously it's easier because I do know what I'm doing and because it is so well directed. When I first started it was directed by Bill and also Bob Tomson, so all those notes I have I've still got written down and a lot of that will come back to me because I think the way they directed it is just second to none. I'm desperately looking forward to going back and bringing that with me."

## ULTIMATE

You played the role of Mrs Johnstone from 1997 right up until 2000, then revived it in 2008 and then again in 2012 for the final two weeks of its West End run – fair to say it's your ultimate role?

"Oh absolutely, without a shadow of a doubt! Mrs J is just me. Everything that she's going through I feel, the way Willy's (Russell) written it is so easy to get over to an audience as it's actually written as you would speak. Sometimes, when people write a script, you look at it and think 'Well, that's not how I would say it'. But this is so perfectly written and so easy, it just flows, and I just feel that Mrs J is me, so it makes it very easy to play."

No doubt a huge factor when accepting the role again for the tour?

"Absolutely. And also, because of Bill (Kenwright). When I first played Mrs J, I was doing cabaret and he took me away from all that. I wrote to Bill and asked him if he would consider me for the role of Mrs J, he sent me a letter back by return post, and less than three weeks later I was waiting on the stage at the Phoenix Theatre (West End) to start rehearsals and I cannot tell you what it did to me. I'd never acted and I thought 'Oh my god, I can't do this!'. But Bill showed so much faith in me that I will always go back. He's only got to click his fingers and I'll be straight in, no problem."

So it was a chance letter that changed your life?

"Oh yes, absolutely. I didn't know Bill, although I knew Carl Wayne, who was The Narrator at that point, and he came to see me in a cabaret show I was in down the road from the Phoenix Theatre and he told me 'You



Family matters – Lyn stars in the acclaimed hit *Blood Brothers*

*I can relate to her to a great extent . . . it just happens*

know, you should go and audition for Mrs Johnstone'. I didn't even know *Blood Brothers*, so I asked him about it and said 'I can't, I don't act'. But he said I should give it a go. So I went back and discussed it with my mum and she said 'Oh, Bill Kenwright, he's a very nice man'. I said 'How do you know? You've never met him', and she said 'Well I've seen him interviewed and he's a very nice man, write to him!' Typical Northern mum! So I did, I wrote and just said 'Would you consider seeing me for the role of Mrs J, I'm not Liverpudlian but I can get into the accent', gave him all that, and I posted it off. Two days later I got a return letter saying 'Don't worry about the Liverpudlian accent, we'll sort that, you don't need one, you're a Northerner, and I'd love to see you'. And that was it. And, from that moment on, we became good friends."

While *Blood Brothers* is what you're synonymous with, you also toured with *Cabaret* for Bill – how did you get involved with that?



"I got an email from him which said he'd like to put me up for *Fräulein Schneider*, and how would I feel about it? I wrote back and said I would love it, he sent me the script and the parts he wanted me to do, asked me to come into the office, I went in and went through the songs, went up to Bill's office, we went through the scenes, and that was that. Bill has been a very good friend to me and a very good boss, he's been very loyal to me, and I will always be there."

You starred in *Cabaret* with Will Young, who started out as a pop star like you did – how hard or easy was it to develop acting skills, particularly with no experience?

"Well, you're not being yourself, it's totally different to standing on stage and being yourself and having to make a speech at the end of a gig, I'm useless at that. But when you go on stage and you're playing a character, it just seems to happen for me. Especially Mrs J, because I can relate to her so well being a northern mum and having gone through a lot of struggles in my life, lots of lows. I can relate to her to a great extent, so I feel that it just comes, it just happens."

Tickets are available from the venue.

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your *Express & Star* every Friday

Hot property – Arcade Fire



## Hotting up for a great night indie arena with Arcade Fire

CANADIAN indie rockers Arcade Fire are blazing a trail once again with their latest album *Everything Now*, and fans have the chance to see them live when they perform at the Genting Arena on Sunday.

Consisting of husband and wife Win Butler and Régine Chassagne, along with Win's younger brother William Butler, Richard Reed Parry, Tim Kingsbury and Jeremy Gara, all the band's studio albums have received nominations for best alternative music album at the Grammys.

Founded in 2000 by friends and classmates Win Butler and Josh Deu, the band came to prominence in 2004 with the release of their critically acclaimed debut

album *Funeral*. Their second studio album, *Neon Bible*, won them the 2008 Meteor Music Award for best international album and the 2008 Juno Award for alternative album of the year. Their third studio album, *The Suburbs*, was released in 2010 to critical acclaim and commercial success, followed by *Reflector* in 2013, which was the score for feature film *Her*, seeing band members William Butler and Owen Pallett nominated for an Academy Award.

It's a unique sound they produce, with members playing guitar, drums, bass guitar, piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, xylophone, glockenspiel, keyboard, synthesizer, French horn, accordion, harp, mandolin and hurdy-gurdy, with the multi-instrumentalists switching duties throughout the show.

Founded in 2000 by friends and classmates Win

Butler and Josh Deu, the band came to prominence in

2004 with the release of their critically acclaimed debut

## Music bug took Lisa all around the world



Singer Lisa Stansfield's childhood was the biggest influence on her career.

She grew up listening to the classic records that her mother played by such artists as Patsy Cline, Brenda Lee and Diana Ross. "My mum used to listen to that stuff all the time."

"I suppose it was innate – I would have been listening to that in her tummy. I came out singing it. Those are your teachers, all those people."

Lisa's early hits owed much to that roster of influences, as *All Around The World* and *All Woman* told stories – just like the records performed by her own idols. "I love

telling stories. Vocally I adopted the soul element of the music. Lyrically a lot of the time I'm a bit country-fied – I do like to tell a tear-jerking story. It's really corny but I think there's a line – if you mess yourself up you mess everything up, I'm just on the border of it."

"So I just learned that from a really, early age. I just got to know the songs off by heart."

"I suppose when you start singing along with something and it feels special and it has a sensation, an actual physical sensation – it just felt incredible. And that sensation has just carried on and on. I think my mum and dad thought it was going to end at some point."

They sort of humoured me for a while. But, no, I couldn't live without singing and stuff, really," she says with a sincerity that is unshakable. "Singing is a massive part of me."

She is happy to have strong roots in the North of England, though she and her husband have lived for long periods in New York and Ireland. "Me and Ian travelled for so long, where we are together that's our home. I didn't particularly miss anywhere. The only time you miss something is when you get back and you realise you missed it."

• Lisa plays at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham on Tuesday.

## Baddiel's family affairs on show



HE'S big mates with West Bromwich's Frank Skinner, who lives down his road, and now David Baddiel is bringing his acclaimed one-man-show, *My Family: Not The Sitcom* to Dudley Town Hall on Thursday.

Covering subjects such as ageing, infidelity, dysfunctional relatives, moral policing on social media, the show is a massively disrespectful celebration of the lives of David Baddiel's late sex-mad mother, Sarah, and dementia-ridden father, Colin.

## Ship comes in for Sting with musical

The Last Ship, the acclaimed musical by pop superstar Sting comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday. Initially inspired by Sting's 1991 album *The Soul Cages* and his own childhood experiences, the production tells the story of a community amid the demise of the shipbuilding industry in Tyne and Wear, with the closure of the Swan Hunter shipyard. This personal, political and passionate new musical from the multiple Grammy Award winner, is an epic account of a family, a community and a great act of defiance. It stars The Upper Hand star Joe McGann, Charlie Hardwick, Richard Fleeshman, recently seen as Sky Masterson in the UK tour of *Guys and Dolls*, and Frances McNamee.

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## CHOICE



Simon Cowell

**Britain's Got Talent** (ITV, 8pm)

Apparently, so impressed were the 'powers that be' (including Simon Cowell) with Declan Donnelly's solo performance at the helm of Saturday Night Takeaway over the Easter weekend, that they decided there and then to confirm him as the sole host of this year's Britain's Got Talent. The auditions are, of course, pre-recorded, meaning the Geordie duo will be presenting together as usual for the time being. Regular viewers will know that, at this early stage, there's every chance that a true star in the making might be found amongst the throngs of hopefuls auditioning – but there will also be no end of people whose hopes, dreams and ambitions far outweigh their actual abilities.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen.** **11.30 Classic Mary Berry, 12.00 Football Focus, 1.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Highlights of day 10 from Queensland. **4.30 Final Score, 5.30 A Question of Sport.** (R)

**6.00 Doodiebugs.** Sketch show in which inanimate objects share their thoughts on the world. With the voices of Kayvan Novak, Cardinal Burns, Morgana Robinson and Spencer Jones. Last in the series.

**6.15 Ready or Not.** Something fruity is happening at a market stall in Plymouth in the game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public facing surprise challenges while going about their lives.

**6.45 BBC News.**

**6.55 Regional Programme.**

**7.05 Pointless Celebrities.** Actors Danny John-Jules, Nigel Lindsay, Liz Carr, Lisa Hammond, Trudie Goodwin, Lisa Maxwell, Bill Maynard and Tricia Penrose compete in the general knowledge quiz.

**7.55 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

**8.35 Casualty.** Bea treats a shopkeeper who has collapsed during a robbery, but faces a dilemma when she begins to suspect two brothers in her care are the men responsible for the crime.

**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)

**10.00 BBC News: Weather, National Lottery Update.**

**10.20 Match of the Day.** Highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City.

**11.45 Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage as the 11th and final day of the Games continues in Queensland, featuring the men's and women's marathons at Southport Broadwater Parklands.

**11.45 Film: Swingers.** (1996) A failed actor struggling to get over a break-up is dragged into the singles scene by a friend. Comedy, with Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn.

**1.15 Civilisations.** (R) **2.15 Weather for the Week Ahead, 2.20 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 Commonwealth Games 2018, Day 10** continues with live athletics, netball and rugby sevens. **10.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Gabby Logan and Clare Balding present live diving and squash on day 10. **12.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Live diving coverage as day 10 reaches its conclusion. **1.15 MasterChef: The Finals.** (R) **2.15 MasterChef: The Finals.** (R) **3.15 Escape to the Continent, (R) 4.15 Money for Nothing, (R) 4.45 Flug It! (R) 5.30 Living with a Brainy Bunch.** (R)

**6.30 Today at the Games.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 10 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland. The men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay final provided the climax to the athletics schedule at the Carrara Stadium, and team England harboured medal hopes after recent successes at global level. Northern Ireland took home nine boxing medals in Glasgow four years ago, and the likes of Michaela Walsh and James McGivern were tasked with delivering more podium finishes at Oxfen Studios. Tom Daley attempted to retain his 10m platform diving title at Optus Aquatic Centre, while champions were also crowned in road cycling, basketball, squash, shooting, table tennis and wrestling.

**8.00 The Forest.** New series. Mark Bonnar narrates a documentary following the people who live and work in Galloway Forest Park, where 600,000 tons of timber is produced every year.

**8.30 Dad's Army.** Jonesy's van runs out of petrol and the platoon is forced to spend the night in a spooky deserted house, where the men's imaginations soon run wild. (R)

**9.00 Getthy: The World's Richest Art Dynasty.**

**10.15 Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers presents live coverage as the 11th and final day of the Games gets under way in Queensland, featuring the men's and women's marathons at Southport Broadwater Parklands.

**10.15 Film: Swingers.** (1996) A failed actor struggling to get over a break-up is dragged into the singles scene by a friend. Comedy, with Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn.

**1.15 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show.** New series. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake Grease, with the help of special guests including Stacey Solomon, Nicole Scherzinger, Fearne Cotton and Marvin Humes.

**9.55 ITV News: Weather.**

**10.15 Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon.

**12.05 Marcella, (R) 12.55 Jackpot247, 3.00 Babushka, (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids, (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) 6.45 Super 4, (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures, (R) 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show, (R) 7.30 Teen Titans Go! (R) 7.45 Adventure Time, (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go, 8.25 ITV News, 8.30 Zoolander 2 on Saturday, 9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning, 11.25 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather, 12.25 Change Your Tune, (R) 1.30 Britain's Brightest Family, (R) 2.00 ITV Racing: Grand National Festival. Live coverage of four races. **4.35 ITV Racing Live: The Grand National.** Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present live coverage from Aintree.**

**6.15 ITV News: Weather.**

**6.25 Regional Programme: Weather.**

**6.30 Ninja Warrior UK.** New series. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

**7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** New series. The madcap panel show returns with Micky Flanagan, Robert Peston, Sally Dynevor and Anna Rice tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.

**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** New series. Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly host the opening auditions of the nationwide talent search. The usual wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, magicians to martial artists and singers to spoon players, compete to impress returning judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams.

**9.25 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show.** New series. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake Grease, with the help of special guests including Stacey Solomon, Nicole Scherzinger, Fearne Cotton and Marvin Humes.

**9.55 ITV News: Weather.**

**10.15 Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon.

**12.05 Marcella, (R) 12.55 Jackpot247, 3.00 Babushka, (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge, 6.45 The King of Queens, (R) 7.10 The King of Queens, (R) 7.35 The King of Queens, 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 9.00 Frasier, (R) 9.30 Frasier, (R) 10.00 Frasier, (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 12.00 The Simpsons, (R) 12.30 The Simpsons, (R) 1.00 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights, 2.30 Car SOS, (R) 3.30 The Restoration Man, (R) 4.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun, (R) 5.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo, (R)**

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels from Cardigan Bay to Liverpool, visiting the heritage railway in Tywyn that was the inspiration for Thomas the Tank Engine and a community that is famous for knitting. She also visits Europe's fastest zip wire and largest pet cemetery. (R)

**8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of Viking England by studying the history of York. She takes part in a Viking battle, meets the metal detectorists behind one of the UK's greatest archaeological finds and gets her hands on an almost 1,000-year-old poo. Aerial archaeologist Ben Rotheram takes to the skies to see how the current layout of York reflects its history.

**9.00 Film: Thor.** (2011) The Norse god of thunder is banished from his own world when his arrogance puts the kingdom on the brink of war. He is sent to present-day Earth, where he is forced to live among humans without his supernatural powers, but must regain his abilities to defend his new home against his evil brother, Kenneth Branagh's fantasy adventure based on the Marvel comics, starring Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston and Anthony Hopkins.

**11.15 Film: Big Game.** (2014) A teenage hunter helps the US president to escape from terrorists pursuing him through the Finnish wilderness. Action adventure, with Samuel L Jackson and Onni Tammila.

**12.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA, (R) 1.45 Hollyoaks, (R) 3.55 Building the Dream, (R) 4.50 The Question Jury, (R) 5.45 Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star, (R) 5.55 Wildlife SOS, (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!, 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, 10.30 The Gadget Show, (R) 11.30 Traffic Cops, (R) 12.30 Traffic Cops, (R) 1.30 Traffic Cops: On the Edge, (R) 2.30 Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union, Leicester Tigers v Northampton Saints (Kick-off 3.00pm), 5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)**

**6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Enforcement officers are faced with the difficult job of evicting a woman with two children – a task that takes a turn for the worse when her ex-partner makes an appearance. (R)

**7.00 The Secret Life of Owls.** The second of two programmes in which cameras follow the lives of owls living in rural Essex on a former First World War airfield. Missing Claw and Stripedet now have three chicks, who must learn how to fly, hunt and pounce. Meanwhile, five tawny owl chicks arrive from a local wildlife centre.

**8.00 QE2: The World's Greatest Cruise Ship.** Part one of two. Documentary telling the story behind the problems that almost spelled the end of the Queen Elizabeth 2 before she was finished. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Norwich City v Cardiff City at Carrow Road.

**12.00 Film: Red River (1948) 2.35 FYI Daily 2.40 Film: Red River (1948) 4.10 FYI Daily: The Last Sunset (1961) 5.15 FYI Daily 2.25 Film: The Last Sunset (1961) 6.25 Film: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) 7.25 FYI Daily 7.30 FYI Film: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) 9.00 FYI Film: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) 11.20 FYI Daily 12.25 Film: Eraser (1996) 12.20 FYI River Monsters 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 TeleShopping**

**E4**

**11.00 New Girl 12.00 The Goldbergs 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.00 Young Sheldon 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Alien Resurrection (1997) 11.05 Gogglebox 12.10 Naked Attraction 1.15 Tattoo Fixers 2.20 Rude Tube 3.15 Gogglebox 4.05 How I Met Your Mother 4.50 Rude (ish) Tube**

**Film4**

**11.00 Thunderbirds (2004) 1.00 Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) 2.35 Rio 2 (2014) 4.35 The Core (2003) 7.15 Europa Report (2013) 9.00 Triple 9 (2016) 11.15 Speed (1994) 1.30 Insidious (2010) 3.40 Close**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth 8.00 Commonwealth Games Extra 9.00 Salamander: Blood Diamonds 10.35 The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves 11.35 From Andy Parry to Zedbee: The Golden Age of Children's TV 12.35 Insect Worlds 1.05 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth 2.05 The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves 3.05 Close**

**ITV2**

**12.05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 1.40 Britain's Got Talent: Top 10 Social Superstars 2.40 Totally You've Been Framed: Gold 2.35 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) 4.45 FYI Daily 4.50 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) 5.35 Film: Liar Liar (1997) 6.35 Film: Arthur (2011) 8.15 FYI Daily 8.20 Film: Arthur (2011) 9.25 Britain's Got More Talent 10.30 Celebrity Juice 11.15 Family Guy 12.40 American Dad! 1.40 Plebs 2.40 Teleshopping 5.40 ITV2 Nightscreen**

**ITV3**

**11.00 A Touch of Frost 3.00 Film: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot (1991) 5.00 Midsummers Murders 11.00 Vera 1.00 On the Buses 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping**

**ITV4**

**11.00 The Virtual Grand National 2018 12.00 The Big Fish Off 1.00 Pawn Stars 1.30 Film: Red River (1948) 2.35 FYI Daily 2.40 Film: Red River (1948) 4.10 FYI Daily: The Last Sunset (1961) 5.15 FYI Daily 2.25 Film: The Last Sunset (1961) 6.25 Film: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) 7.25 FYI Daily 7.30 FYI Film: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) 9.00 FYI Film: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) 11.20 FYI Daily 12.25 Film: Eraser (1996) 12.20 FYI River Monsters 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping**

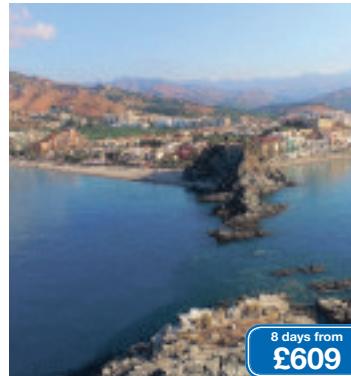
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# SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 15

## CHOICE



Eleanor Tomlinson

### Ordeal by Innocence (BBC1, 9pm)

The Argyll children are forced to relive the events of the terrible Christmas Eve when Rachel was murdered to finally uncover the truth about who killed her and why. However, they soon discover that everyone in the family had a reason for wanting to get rid of her. Arthur's assertion that he is telling the truth puts his life in danger, prompting a race against time to save his life, while Leo and Gwenda's wedding descends into violence as a vengeful party plots to take the law into their own hands. Bill Nighy, Anthony Boyle, Anna Chancellor, Morven Christie, Crystal Clarke, Christian Cooke, Alice Eve and Matthew Goode star. Last in the series.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, **7.30** Match of the Day, (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, **10.00** The Big Questions, **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer, (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt, (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather, **1.15** MasterChef: The Finals, (R) 2.15 MasterChef: The Final, (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country, (R) 4.00 Lifeline, **4.10** Songs of Praise, **4.45** Pointless Celebrities, (R) 5.35 BBC News, **5.50** Regional Programme.  
**6.00** **The Big Painting Challenge.** The contestants face a test of their portrait-painting skills at RAF Hendon, and discover the different challenges presented by painting older and younger subjects. A gathering of RAF personnel and members of the public assess their efforts and choose a favourite before judges Daphne Todd and Lachlan Goudie decide who will be leaving the series this week.  
**7.00** **Countryfile.** In Cumbria, Matt Baker walks along a new section of the England Coast Path, meeting the people who created it and a local film-maker, while Anita Rani explores a trail documenting the life of artist Percy Kelly, Plus, Helen Skelton meets a man who gave up city life to make hand-crafted chopping boards, and Sian Fletcher reports on efforts to save a breeding colony of black guillemots. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The team values more decorative objects and rarities.  
**9.00** **Ordeal by Innocence.** The Argylls relive the events of Rachel's death to uncover the truth. However, they soon discover that everyone in the family had a reason to kill her. Last in the series.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, with highlights of Newcastle United v Arsenal at St James' Park and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion at Old Trafford.  
**11.30** **Film: The Peacemaker.** (1997) Two mismatched government operatives are forced to put aside their differences to find a stolen cache of nuclear warheads. Action thriller, with George Clooney.  
**1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Commonwealth Games 2018. Live rugby sevens coverage on the 11th and final day, **9.15** Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony 2018. Live coverage from Carrara Stadium in Queensland, Australia, **3.00** Live Women's FA Cup Football, Chelsea Ladies v Manchester City Women (Kick-off 3.30pm), **5.30** Flug It! (R)  
**6.30** **Today at the Games.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the best of the action from day 11 of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, as the event was brought to its conclusion. Seventeen more champions were crowned throughout the final day, including in the men's and women's marathons at Southport Broadwater Parklands. Plus, the netball and rugby sevens tournaments came to an end at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre and Robina Stadium respectively, while the badminton, squash, basketball and table tennis all reached a climax.  
**8.00** **Britain's Biggest Warship.** New series, Film-maker Chris Ternell captures an intimate and personal portrait of life on board ultra-modern super aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, as its crew goes to sea a breeding colony of black guillemots. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
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**1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead, **1.30** BBC News.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty, **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids, (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids, (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) **6.45** Super 4, (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go, (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show, (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go!, (R) **7.45** Adventure Time, (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways, (R) **8.25** ITV News, **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday, **9.25** Love Your Garden, (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday, **11.00** Britain's Got Talent, (R) **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent, (R) **1.20** ITV News: Weather, **1.30** Ninja Warrior UK, (R) **2.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.00** Tipping Point, (R) **4.00** Change Your Tune, (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special, (R)  
**6.00** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The madcap panel show returns, with Micky Flanagan, Robert Peston, Sally Dynevor and Anneka Rice tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion, (R)  
**6.30** **ITV News: Weather.**  
**6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**7.00** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the game show, asking contestants Ellie Simmonds, Fay Ripley and Jimmy Carr to "see if and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, (R)  
**8.00** **The Durrells.** An Italian family arrive on the island, provoking jealousy in Louise, who begins to suspect there is something suspicious about the new arrivals after inviting them over.  
**9.00** **The Good Karma Hospital.** The team tries to save survivors from a collapsed building. Ruby discovers a secret concerning one of her patients, and Ram helps a woman whose husband is missing.  
**10.00** **ITV News: Weather.**  
**10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton, (R)  
**11.15** **This Time Next Year.** More participants take on 12-month challenges, including parents hoping to transform their deaf baby girl's life, Davina McCall presents, (R)  
**12.10** **Jackpot247, 3.00** Take on the Twisters, (R) **3.50** ITV Newsround, **5.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two, (R) **12.15** **Film: The Hunters.** (1996) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time, (R) **3.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two, (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** **The King of Queens.** (R) **6.40** The King of Queens, (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.25** Eat the Week, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.30** The Simpsons, (R) **1.00** The Simpsons, (R) **1.30** The Simpsons, (R) **2.00** Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Highlights, **4.30** Special with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge, (R) **5.30** Grand Designs, (R)  
**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick and Angel decide they will live as self-sufficiently as they can while restoring the chateau, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs for breakfast every morning. However, they still have countless problems to deal with, and have only £20,000 left to spend on the project. The chateau is still without either heating or water, while the 59 windows are crumbling. While Dick's renovations fall behind schedule, Angel is in her element coming up with ideas for what the finished building will look like, (R)  
**8.00** **The Crystal Maze.** New series. Richard Ayoade guides the Hauxwell family through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones of the Maze, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges to win time in the Crystal Dome.  
**9.00** **Homeland.** Carrie has problems at home. Saul and Wellington work on Paley, Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Linus Roache.  
**10.05** **Lifeline.** Spanish drama, starring Pablo Derqui as a surgeon who begins having visions after undergoing a heart transplant that inspire him to discover how the donor died.  
**11.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jonathan Ross, Lee Mack and Victoria Coren Mitchell join regulars Jon Richardson and Jimmy Carr for the words-and-numbers game, (R)  
**12.05** **Film: Out of the Furnace.** (2013) Crime thriller, starring Christian Bale.  
**2.10** **Film: Hotel Salvation.** (2016) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Adil Hussain, **3.50** KOTV Boxing Weekly, **4.20** Gillette World Sport, **4.45** The Question Jury, A new juror stirs things up by gossiping about some of the others, (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free, (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** **Milkshake!** Little Princess, **6.10** Whisper, (R) **6.20** The Men Show, (R) **6.30** Milkshake Monkey, (R) **6.40** The Secret Life of Puppies, (R) **6.40** Motley, (R) **6.45** Simon, (R) **6.50** Simon, (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends, (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam, (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van, (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines, (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol, (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight, (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective, (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine, (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon, (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig, (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig, (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship, (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush, (R) **11.50** FIA Formula E, **12.50** Traffic Cops: Under Attack, (R) **1.45** All New Traffic Cops, (R) **2.45** Film: A Royal Night Out, (2015) **3.45** Film: Update, **3.50** Film: A Royal Night Out, (2015) **4.40** Film: The Hundred-Foot Journey, (2014) **5.40** News Update, **5.45** Film: The Hundred-Foot Journey, (2014) **6.45** Film: The Royal, (2015) **7.45** Film: The Mummy (1999) **7.40** Film: Fast & Furious 7 (2015) **10.35** Film: **10.40** Film: Fast & Furious 7 (2015) **11.40** Family Guy 1.10 American Dad! **2.00** Totally Bonkers, **2.30** Guinness World Records 2, **3.00** Teleshopping ITV2  
**11.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **12.12** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **1.20** Film: **1.25** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **2.10** Film: Casper (1995) **3.10** Film: **3.15** Film: Casper (1995) **4.05** Britain's Got Talent 5.35 Britain's Got More Talent **6.40** Film: The Mummy (1999) **7.40** Film: **7.45** Film: The Mummy (1999) **8.00** Film: Cruise 9.00 Film: Tommy Cooper Forever **10.00** Film: Changeling (2008) **12.30** Blue Murder 2.35 Tommy Cooper Forever **3.25** Road to Avonlea **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants **9.00** Timucu's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **10.00** Why the Industrial Revolution Happened Here **11.00** Conversations: Alex Salmond **12.00** Timeshift: Eyes Down! The Story of Bingo **1.00** Insect World 1.30 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **2.30** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **3.30** Close ITV2  
**11.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **12.12** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **1.20** Film: **1.25** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **2.10** Film: Casper (1995) **3.10** Film: **3.15** Film: Casper (1995) **4.05** Britain's Got Talent 5.35 Britain's Got More Talent **6.40** Film: The Mummy (1999) **7.40** Film: **7.45** Film: The Mummy (1999) **8.00** Film: Fast & Furious 7 (2015) **10.35** Film: **10.40** Film: Fast & Furious 7 (2015) **11.40** Family Guy 1.10 American Dad! **2.00** Totally Bonkers, **2.30** Guinness World Records 2, **3.00** Teleshopping ITV3  
**11.25** A Touch of Frost **3.40** Inspector Morse **6.00** Lewis **8.00** The Cruise 9.00 Film: Tommy Cooper Forever **10.00** Film: Changeling (2008) **12.30** Blue Murder 2.35 Tommy Cooper Forever **3.25** Road to Avonlea **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**  
**11.25** Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **12.30** Film: **12.35** Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **1.45** Film: Bend of the River (1952) **2.50** Film: Bend of the River (1952) **3.35** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **4.40** Film: **4.45** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **5.50** Mr Bean **6.55** The Big Fish Off **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Tremors (1990) **10.05** Film: **10.10** Film: Tremors (1990) **11.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.15** Film: **12.20** Film: Tremors (2009) **12.55** ITV4 **13.00** Film: The Saint 2.00 It's Not Rocket Science **3.00** TeleShopping Film 4  
**11.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.50** Young Sheldon **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: The Net (1995) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.05** Rue Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks Film 4  
**11.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **1.00** Shark Tale (2004) **2.45** Shrek (2001) **4.30** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **5.55** Dant's Peak (1997) **9.00** Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) **12.00** Tank 43 (2012) **1.45** Monsieur Lazhar (2011) **3.55** Close

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**FILM CHOICES****MONDAY****Deadly Duplicate, Channel 5, 3.20pm**

A struggling single mother in the midst of a fierce custody battle is framed for the murder of her wealthy father by her ambitious identical twin sister. Thriller, starring Jen Lilley and Peter Douglas. (2018)

**TUESDAY****Deadly Delusion, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

In search of a fresh start, Julia, a troubled woman, moves to Los Angeles with her new boyfriend. After settling into a new home, strange things begin to happen, and Julia becomes convinced that her demons have moved with her. Thriller, starring Haylie Duff, Mike Faoli and Teri Polo. (2017)

**WEDNESDAY****Admission, Channel 4, 1.35pm**

A by-the-book university admissions officer visits an unconventional school run by a former college friend to interview a gifted student. She begins to suspect the pupil may be the son she gave up for adoption, and the experience makes her rethink her uncompromising outlook on life. Comedy drama, with Tina Fey and Paul Rudd. (2013)



Shaun of the Dead, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

**THURSDAY****Patricia Cornwell's At Risk, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

An ambitious district attorney wants to improve her political standing by cracking a murder case that has gone unsolved for 20 years. She recruits a state police detective to take on the investigation, but he ends up uncovering another crime much closer to home. Mystery, starring Andie MacDowell, Daniel Sunjata and Annabeth Gish. (2010)

**FRIDAY****Shaun of the Dead, ITV, 11.15pm**

An unambitious 29-year-old man recently dumped and trapped in the job from hell decides to get his life back on track. Unfortunately, he has to put his plans on hold when zombies rise from their graves and stalk the streets of London to feast on the living. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Kate Ashfield, Dylan Moran, Lucy Davis, Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton. (2004)

# Neil is getting all fired up about a new wi-fi mast

**I**t was a month in which an asteroid was named in honour of Freddie Mercury to mark what would have been his 70th birthday, the Summer Paralympic Games opened in Rio, Stan Wawrinka won the US Open men's tennis singles title, Sam Allardyce quit as England manager - and the BBC's Landmark Sitcom Season was in full swing.

Most viewers will remember that the last in that list saw the return of much-missed favourites such as Porridge and Goodnight Sweetheart, as well as a look at the early life of Keeping Up Appearances' Hyacinth Bucket.

But sneaking in there was a selection of pilot editions for various prospective programmes, including Motherland (a full run of which aired last November) and Home From Home.

The latter is back this week and is making the leap from BBC Two to prime-time BBC One, so clearly its makers have heaps of faith in it.

Johnny Vegas heads the cast as Neil Hackett who, along with his wife

Fiona, has achieved his long-cherished dream of moving to a lodge in the Lake District. However, it seems that at every turn, their wealthy, effortlessly superior neighbours the Dillons manage to spoil it.

Will the Hacketts ever get the upper hand?

"We are thrilled with the news that Home From Home is going to series and cannot wait to get to work," claims Vegas, who was one of the full series was announced almost 18 months ago. "We all felt we were on to something very special whilst making the pilot and were rewarded with some wonderful feedback."

"We have so much more to explore with these characters and relish the opportunity to share where they go from here. The opportunity to work closely with Home From Home's creators, fellow cast members and producer Rebecca Papworth is one I'm chuffed to have. We are absolutely chomping at the bit to deliver a worthy addition to BBC One's rich comedy pedigree."

The BBC's controller of comedy commissioning, Shane Allen, adds: "Featuring a knock-out cast, rich comedy themes – the northern family versus the southern one – plus those on their way up the class ladder alongside those on their way down.

"There is something for everyone to relate to and it has a big heart making it the perfect fit for BBC One. We need cheering up now more than ever and it's about time Johnny Vegas was front and centre of a broad appeal sitcom."

Regular TV viewers may want to point out to Mr Allen that Vegas already appears in Still Open All Hours, but while that is rather cosy, Home From Home promises to have more bite.

Vegas isn't the only big name to sign up either – Adam James and Emilia Fox, who featured in the pilot, are returning too, alongside Pearce Quigley and Susan Calman.

And with a pedigree like that behind it, the series can surely be nothing else but a hit.



Johnny Vegas and Niky Wardley star in Home from Home, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**The Queen's Green Planet**  
**ITV, 9pm**

Documentary following Her Majesty the Queen and an ambitious legacy project to create a global network of protected forests, spanning the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. The film also features a conversation between the Queen and Sir David Attenborough in the gardens of Buckingham Palace last summer, with the subjects ranging from climate change to conkers and birthday gifts. There is also footage of the members of the royal family involved so far in making the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy a reality.

**TUESDAY**  
**Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge**  
**BBC2, 8pm**

Four food producers with fledgling businesses test out their products on the locals in Malhamdale in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. They have two days in the shop to promote and sell their wares. This time it's makers of preserves, pickles and spreads battling it out for a place in the final. Tom Kerridge meets members of the community as they try the unusual preserves. Meanwhile, judges Alison Swan Parente and Nisha Katona visit the food producers at home to see how well their product is made.

**Stephen: The Murder that Changed a Nation**  
**BBC1, 9pm**

In April 1993, 18-year-old black student Stephen Lawrence was murdered in an unprovoked attack by a group of white youths. Now as the 25th anniversary approaches, this fascinating three-part documentary, which is shown across consecutive evenings, sets out to tell the story not just of the crime, but the subsequent investigation which would turn into one of the longest, most complex and arguably mishandled in the Metropolitan Police's history, allowing the suspected killers to escape justice for nearly 20 years.

**Wednesday**  
**Watchdog Live**  
**BBC1, 8pm**

There's nothing worse than forking out for a purchase – whether it's a big investment such as a holiday or new household appliance, or something smaller – only to find out when it's too late that you've been taken for a ride. If only there was someone to look out for honest consumers. Thankfully, Watchdog Live is back to do just that, as presenters Matt

Allwright, Steph McGovern and Nikki Fox regroup at their Salford studio. In the opening episode, they take a look at car parking charges, specifically an astonishing new way that parking companies can hit motorists with charges – and why we should not necessarily have to pay them.

**Benidorm**  
**ITV, 9pm**

Joyce is furious with Sam and Monty after Sammy's disastrous performances in Neptunes, and she soon finds out that Monty has given him a Solana contract. Meanwhile, Doreen jumps the gun by sending Pauline's novel to be published, and Sheron and Billy take a trip down memory lane and spend a day reliving their youth. Elsewhere, Denis and Nigel are increasingly reluctant to arrest Lesley, and Mateo worries about having to go on another concubine cruise with Crystal Hennessy. Vass.

Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Not Going Out**  
**BBC1, 8.30pm**

Lee Mack and Sally Bretton star in the domestic comedy which sees the couple appear to go from one disaster to the next, while coping with their three kids, Lucy's disapproving parents, Lee's feckless dad Frank and their world-weary friends Toby and Anna. In this final episode, Lucy begins to consider having a boob job, encouraged by Anna, wondering whether it will help her regain some of the femininity she felt in her youth.

**FRIDAY**  
**The Button**  
**BBC1, 8.30pm**

From the makers of Taskmaster, the show that proved there's more to Dave than repeats of QI, comes this intriguing new game show. It's set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members tackle a number of fiendishly fun challenges requiring skill, determination and intellect from the comfort of their living rooms over the course of a day. With different amounts of money up for grabs for each challenge, The Button lets the most successful household pocket everything they've won during the show. However, the losing teams get nothing.

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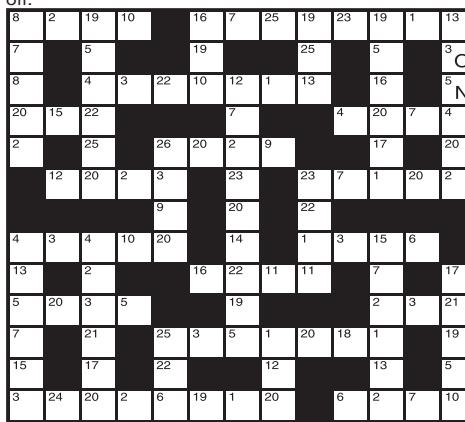


## BRAIN GYM

No.475

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	A	K	3	B	4	J	G	5	F	6	E	7	W	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
14	N	15	S	16	Q	17	I	18	O	19	M	20	C	21	R	22	P	23	Z	24	U	25	Y	26	L	27	T	28	W	29	U	30	Y	31

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

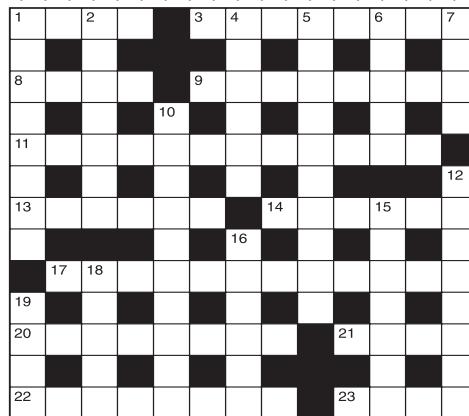
## Cryptic Clues: Across

1		14
2		15
3	O	16
4		17
5	N	18
6		19
7		20
8		21
9		22
10		23
11		24
12		25
13		26

- Presumably not an ailment of tropical climates (4)
- Crude to a teacher (8)
- One only conceals a form of lighting (4)
- Got back into Parliament (8)
- Bad narrative from inferior member of family (4,8)
- Sailor gets a severe telling off (6)
- More coarse-sounding shopkeeper (6)
- Unequalled performance from a jailbird? (6,6)
- Arrange prim seat for prelates (8)
- Metal from La Paz in current use (4)
- Is deeper and faster (8)
- Old and greyer every day initially (4)
- Plot to get 100 to top of high part of church (8)
- Beware of the sentry (4,3)
- Lives where there are 500 sources of water (6)
- Legal compulsion to be a suitor? (5,5)
- Dance to remove the effects of sunbathing? (5)
- Dupes are taken for such a journey (4)
- Where spectators witness tremendous resistance? (10)
- Manufactured to a greater extent? (8)
- Boasting 100 at the oars (7)
- Where to be an essential part? (6)
- Lift up, but don't quite command (5)
- Work involved in preparing soup (4)

## Down

- Plot to get 100 to top of high part of church (8)
- Beware of the sentry (4,3)
- Lives where there are 500 sources of water (6)
- Legal compulsion to be a suitor? (5,5)
- Dance to remove the effects of sunbathing? (5)
- Dupes are taken for such a journey (4)
- Where spectators witness tremendous resistance? (10)
- Manufactured to a greater extent? (8)
- Boasting 100 at the oars (7)
- Where to be an essential part? (6)
- Lift up, but don't quite command (5)
- Work involved in preparing soup (4)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

- Agreement (4)
- Humidity (8)
- Genuine (4)
- Creature of prey (8)
- Disconcerting (12)
- Rigorous (6)
- Suitable (6)
- Slander (4,8)
- Prolonged (8)
- Labyrinth (4)
- Beset (8)
- Elects (5)
- Minus (4)
- Wilful (8)
- Room (7)
- Aviator (6)
- Walker (10)
- Consumed (5)
- Certain (4)
- Aggressiveness (10)
- Advance (8)
- Confidential (7)
- Orb (6)
- Elects (5)
- Medicinal plant (4)

## Down

## Last week's solutions:

**Quiz:** 1 Larch; 2 Hans Christian Andersen; 3 11th November; 4 120; 5 Arctic; 6 Jennifer Capriati; 7 Nuku'alofa; 8 South African; 9 Martyrs; 10 Romania.

**Niner:** INTRODUCE

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**612259**  
**347852**  
**89552**

gives a tool,  
gives a second tool,  
gives an alloy.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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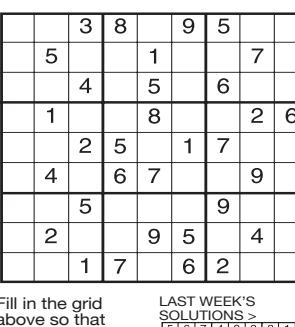


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## Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5 6 7 4 9 2 3 1 8  
9 2 4 1 3 8 5 7 6  
8 1 3 7 5 6 2 9 4  
7 9 6 8 2 4 1 5 3  
3 4 8 9 1 5 6 2 7  
2 5 1 6 7 3 8 4 9  
6 8 2 5 4 9 7 3 1  
4 7 5 3 6 1 9 8 2  
1 3 9 2 8 7 4 6 5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stage-fright; 9 Present; 10 Guide; 11 Rites; 12 Outpost; 13 Abrade; 15 Grilse; 18 Fairway; 20 Flute; 21 Roses; 23 Overact; 24 Necessities; Down: 2 Treat; 3 Guess; 4 Fathom; 5 Ingot; 6 Hair-oil; 7 Spartan fare; 8 Settlements; 14 Reissue; 16 Reflect; 17 Pylons; 19 Waste; 21 Usage. QUICK - Across: 1 Overweening; 4 Erratic; 10 Demon; 11 Theme; 12 Slender; 13 Idiots; 15 Placed; 18 Transom; 20 Appal; 22 Voice; 23 Nearest; 24 Intersperse; Down: 2 Verge; 3 Retreat; 4 Excuse; 5 Nudge; 6 Nomadic; 7 Restrictive; 8 Incredulity; 14 Iranian; 16 Leakage; 17 Amends; 19 Sieve; 21 Press.

# Great Dane is a real treasure trove

SCANDINAVIA had long been an area I'd been keen to explore. So when the opportunity arose to visit Aarhus, Denmark's second city, I jumped at the chance.

On the east coast of the Jutland Peninsula, Aarhus is about 110 miles northwest of Copenhagen. A jewel of the Danish east coast, it bore the title of European Capital of Culture in 2017, and was ranked that year by both *Vogue* and *Lonely Planet* as a must-visit destination. On arriving, it is quickly easy to see why.

Aarhus is characterised by its blend of historical and contemporary architecture paired with a vibrant, friendly and exciting atmosphere.

## JOVIAL

With a population of just over 330,000 it would perhaps not be considered a large city by modern global standards. Yet Aarhus retains a wonderful metropolitan feel without ever being overbearing.

On my first evening I was struck by two things. Firstly, this place was clean. And I mean seriously clean. Not once as I walked the streets did I see a single speck of litter. This, coupled with the freshness of the air.

Secondly, Aarhus clearly seemed to be a city of the young. Street life was dominated by students and young people toward whom the cosmopolitan vibe of the town was geared. There was a jovial buzz on streets filled with excited evening shoppers, and diners indulging in the gastronomic delights the city had to offer.

I looked around and smiled. I was really going to enjoy it here. After a long day travelling and feeling more than a little famished, I headed to Aarhus Street Food. I had been told about this incredible indoor food market, and needed to see it for myself. It did not disappoint.

A superb addition to the city's dining scene, Aarhus

Enjoy a meander through the Latin Quarter



The Salling rooftop bar – a modern winter paradise



Street Food is a bustling hall of culinary delight, showcasing fast cuisine from all over the world. And the community-vibe created by the seating arrangements was the perfect way to enjoy my first meal in this progressive, contemporary and imaginative city.

Having enjoyed an evening of exploration, I made my way to my accommodation. WakeUp Aarhus was a stylish and, again, very clean hotel a short walk from the railway station. Its central location positioned it perfectly to enjoy all of the attractions the city would have to offer.

The next morning I headed out to see what this

intriguing city was really all about. My first stop was ARoS Aarhus Art Museum. One of the largest art museums in northern Europe, ARoS was initially established in 1859, though was re-opened in 2004 with a new modern building.

With 20,700 square metres on 10 levels, ARoS has ample space to showcase its impressive collection of sculptures, paintings and installations. For atop the roof of ARoS sits perhaps the museum's most incredible installation, and one that turns the vista of the city itself into a work of art. Created by Danish-Icelandic artist

Olafur Eliasson, the stunning piece, 'Your Rainbow Panorama', is a 150-metre-long circular coloured-glass tunnel walkway. On the roof of ARoS, it sits 50 metres above ground level, and allows visitors to enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the city skyline in every colour of the rainbow.

I decided to go and spend some time in the city's Latin Quarter – a wonderfully vibrant area, characterised by narrow cobbled streets, small chic shops and bustling cafes. A perfect weekend in an incredible part of the world.

DAN MORRIS

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### Terracotta Warriors

in Liverpool

**Departing Sunday 19 Aug**

From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

#### Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at our selected hotel
- ✓ Entrance to the Terracotta Warriors exhibition at the World Museum, Liverpool

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### English Riviera

Weekend

**Departing Friday 5 Oct**

From Dudley

#### Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights DBB at the Seascape Hotel, Torquay
- ✓ Entertainment some nights
- ✓ Excursion to Dawlish & Teignmouth

**4 Days**  
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### Scarborough

Weekend

**Departing Friday 26 Oct**

From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

#### Price Includes...

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- ✓ Excursion to Whitby

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Four-bedroomed family home in a sought-after area

An ideal four-bedroomed family home in a sought-after location, 'Redgate Corner', 17 Straits Road, Lower Gornal, is on the market with Taylors Estate Agents for offers in the region of £310,000.

The agents recommend a personal inspection to appreciate size, quality and nature of this meticulously maintained home with particular features including a through breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units, fitted wardrobes to principle bedroom, extensive front gardens with in-and-out drive.

In more detail, the imposing reception hall has doors off to the utility room which has roll edge work surfaces, three-quarter height storage unit, plumbing for washing machine and a door to the cloakroom.

The through living room has a feature timber overmantle with marble inset and hearth with living flame gas fire. The dining room end of the room features cottage-style beams to the ceiling and UPVC double glazed patio doors out to the garden.

The through breakfast kitchen boasts an extensive range of wall-mounted and base units with roll edge work surfaces over, integrated fridge and freezer, split-level five-ring gas hob and fan-assisted electric oven below. The breakfast area has a split stable door to outside and a storage cupboard.

Off the landing, double bedroom one features a range of fitted units including wardrobes, a dressing table and bedside cabinets.

Three further double bedrooms all feature double-glazed windows and radiators and the tiled family bathroom is to the rear and has a contemporary white suite providing bath, shower, vanity wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is the substantial double garage which has boarded loft space, up-and-over door and lights and power sockets. There is also a spacious car port. The rear garden has a slabbed patio, shaped lawn with fir tree screen, a gravelled area and a timber garden shed.

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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LOWER GORNAL £310,000



### KEY FEATURES

Spacious detached

Close to village

Large breakfast kitchen

Four double bedrooms

Double garage and car port



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CHARNWOOD AVENUE,  
Sedgley

- A beautiful 'dormer' house
- Sedgley location
- EPC rating: F

Price £260,000

- FOUR bedrooms
- Full of potential

SUNNINGDALE ROAD  
Sedgley

- A beautiful link-detached
- Enville Northway location
- EPC rating: E

Price £250,000

- THREE bedrooms
- Extended bathroom

WOLVERHAMPTON  
ROAD Sedgley

- A beautiful Cottage
- Full of character and charm
- EPC rating: TBC

Price £250,000

- TWO bedrooms
- TWO reception rooms

THORNLEIGH Lower  
Gornal

- A detached BUNGALOW
- Having a corner plot
- EPC rating: D

Price £220,000

- Two double bedrooms
- Detached garage

GREAT WESTERN WAY  
Kingswinford

- Himley View Kingswinford
- Only 3 years old
- EPC rating: B

Price £195,000

- NHBC guarantee
- THREE bedrooms



IVYHOUSE LANE Coseley

- A detached home
- THREE bedrooms
- EPC rating: D

Price £179,950

- Lounge & diner
- Detached garage

CEDARWOOD ROAD  
Lower Gornal

- A detached Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- EPC rating: D

Price £169,950

- Office space/study area
- Conservatory to the rear

BIRD STREET Lower  
Gornal

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Three bedrooms
- EPC rating: B

Price £164,950

- En-suite and bathroom
- Integral garage

AUTUMN DRIVE  
Lower Gornal

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Quiet cul-de-sac
- EPC rating: D

Price £131,950

- Potential rear parking
- SPACIOUS accommodation



WARD GROVE Lanesfield

- A semi-detached Bungalow
- Re-configured layout
- EPC rating: E

Price £119,950

- One bedroom
- Beautiful rear gardens



WARREN DRIVE Sedgley

- A well presented link-detached
- Through lounge dining room
- FOUR bedrooms
- Downstairs WC
- EPC rating: D



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### SEDGLEY, Parkdale

Stunning property located in the ALL SAINTS CONSERVATION AREA within walking distance of Sedgley centre. This VICTORIAN TOWN HOUSE benefits from gas central heating, double glazing set over FOUR STOREYS comprising; entrance hall, living room, dining room, fitted farmhouse kitchen as well as cellar, utility room, guest W/C, FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom, gardens to front & courtyard to rear. Allocated parking. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC:E SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £269,950, NOW £264,950



### COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill

Extremely well presented semi-detached property in the popular Hurst Hill area having been tastefully decorated. This good sized family home benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, usable loft space with window (potential bedroom?), garden & parking. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £164,950



### SEDGLEY, Thistle Close, High Arcal

A fantastically presented modern semi-detached in the extremely sought after area of High Arcal in Sedgley. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing this ideal starter home also boasts living room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking for ample cars to front. This property is also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £144,950



### COSELEY, Ivyhouse Lane

A wonderfully presented DETACHED family home located in the Coseley area. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing this property also benefits from: porch, hall, guest W/C, through lounge, snug/ sitting room, dining-kitchen, utility room, Conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway, offering ample parking. Viewing Essential EPC: B SEDGLEY

New price WAS £249,950, NOW £244,950



### LOWER GORNAL, Keats Close, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED, gas centrally heated, double glazed bungalow with panoramic distant views comprising: hall, lounge, enlarged bathroom, utility room, stretching 22' 4" through hub of the house' dining kitchen with comprehensive range of 'arts & crafts' oak style units (double French doors out to garden), two double bedrooms, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £229,000, NOW £227,500



### Dudley, Lynbrook Close

This DELIGHTFULLY PRESENTED & EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Stylishly Decorated Through Lounge, EXTENDED KITCHEN, Three Good Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Pleasant Garden Aspect. EPC: G

£179,950



### COSELEY, Tirls Hill Road, Hurst Hill

FANTASTICALLY SITUATED with open country views to front and woodland to the back, this ideal starter home has so much to offer. As well as double glazing and gas central heating to this TWO BEDROOM property also boasts entrance porch, living room, breakfast-kitchen, utility room/ guest W/C, bathroom, rear garden and drive to front. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £164,950, NOW £159,950



### COSELEY, Whigates Road

EXTENDED spacious Freehold gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached occupying a fine prominent corner plot that has been improved in recent years but offers further potential comprising hall, store, 23' 4" through living room, double glazed conservatory, extended/upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. South facing rear garden (no vendors advise past planning consent for two storey extension). EPC: TBC SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £157,500



### PENNSNETT, Swan Street

AN OUTSTANDING and READY TO MOVE INTO SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE which is superbly located close to amenities, set back beyond the LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and with a GENEROUS PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, offering a IMMACULATE layout which includes TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS. EPC: D

£148,950



### WORDSLEY, Marshall Crescent

● Open Viewing Saturday 14th April 11am-1pm ● An OUTSTANDING GROUND FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT with stunning high ceilings and tall sash windows, set within the superb conversion of the Heritage Buildings, including TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS with EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM. With ALLOCATED RESIDENT PARKING and Shared Visitor Parking Spaces. EPC: E

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### Dudley, Pearce Close

This IMMACULATEDY PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is tucked away in a quiet cul de sac and comprises: entrance hall, stylish open plan lounge / dining room, RE-FITTED KITCHEN, three bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, driveway and rear garden. EPC: G

£144,950



### DUDLEY, Old Park Road

An EXTENDED conscientiously maintained UPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached offering further potential comprising porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, pantry, extended rear living room, extended kitchen and a wet room beyond (with potential), three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy garden. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY

New price WAS £144,950, NOW £139,000



### Dudley, Newland Grove

THIS BAY FRONTED, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED & GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, THREE BEDROOM, INTERMEDIATE, TERRACE PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Spacious Well Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Shower Room, Large Rear Garden. EPC: G

£124,950



### COSELEY, Painters Croft

ATTRACTIVE stylish freehold gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'starter home' with extensive driveway parking set in cul-de-sac and comprising: hallway, L shape lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances (double opening French doors out to the garden), two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £123,500



### Dudley, Bowling Green Road

THIS MOST APPEALING, SEMI-DETACHED HOME enjoys perhaps one of the LARGEST PLOTS upon Bowling Green Road itself & comprises: Hall, Attractive Lounge, Guests W.C. Spacious Gloss Kitchen, 2/3 Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Garage & Garden. EPC: C

£115,000



### GORNAL WOOD, New Street

Built in 1856, this stylishly presented traditional terraced property is ideal for any first time buyer. As well as being conveniently located, within walking distance to Gornal Village, bus terminus and schools, this quaint TWO BEDROOM also boasts gas central heating and double glazing as well as living room, attractive kitchen, family bathroom and enclosed rear garden. This property is also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £114,950, NOW £109,950



### Brierley Hill, North Street

BEAUTIFULLY BUILT by BARRATT HOMES & with STUNNING VIEWS, is this STUNNING, SECOND FLOOR, APARTMENT comprising: Hall, ATTRACTIVE LOUNGE, Modern Kitchen, Two Ample Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking. EPC: D

£94,950



### Oldbury, Red Lion Close

THIS WELL MAINTAINED & MOST APPEALING, MAISONETTE enjoys an easily accessible GROUND FLOOR position and comprises: Porch, Well Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Good Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Garage & Communal Gardens and Grounds. EPC: E

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## PROPERTY



### Ultra modern property is new to the market

New to the property market, this ultra modern four-bedroomed detached home in Marnham Road, West Bromwich, lies on the ever popular Churchfields Estate.

It is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £370,000. The property features stunning living space and would be perfect for a growing family. The house includes a kitchen/diner, a large conservatory, an en-suite, guest WC, off-road parking and an integral garage.

Being L-shaped, the kitchen/

**WEST BROMWICH**  
£370,000

diner has a range of fitted wall and base units with work surfaces over, plumbing for a washing machine and a door leading to the garden.

In more detail, the entrance hall has a window to the side and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The downstairs WC is nearby. The lounge has a bay window to the

side. The conservatory has tiled flooring, under floor heating, lights and French doors leading out to the rear garden.

Upstairs, bedroom one has built-in wardrobes and an en-suite shower room. The remaining three bedrooms all have a built-in wardrobe.

The family bathroom has a window to the side, and features a heated towel rail and a storage cupboard. Contact Connells on 0121 525 1177.

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# MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO THE  
BEST CARS ON  
THE MARKET

## Mustang is still definitive muscle car experience

By Ryan Hirons

It wasn't too long ago that the Ford Mustang was first introduced to the UK, going on-sale officially here in 2016 for the first time in the model's 44-year history – but barely two years on, and we have a facelifted car.

The iconic V8 muscle car has been quite a success since arriving in Europe – having sold more than 33,000 units since landing on this side of the pond – and the American firm is hoping more technology and a fresh face can continue its initial success.

The big focus on the facelifted Mustang for Ford has been improving its previous Euro NCAP safety rating from two stars to a targeted three. As a result, it now features pre-collision assist with pedestrian detection technology along with lane-keep assistance.

### Peace

That's not the only new thing, though. Providing fresh vocal chords to the eight-cylinder brute is an active exhaust system that features 'Good Neighbour Mode', which can be set to reduce exhaust noise between certain hours of the day to avoid disturbing the peace. There's also the addition of optional 'MagneRide' adjustable suspension, which adjusts depending on the driving mode.

There's no real change in the choice of engines on offer for the updated Ford Mustang, with a 2.3-litre turbocharged four-cylinder unit starting the range while the iconic 5.0-litre V8 remains too.

We drove the V8, which has received some minor fettling. Power is up to 444bhp from 410 on the original car, although torque remains unchanged at 529Nm. Paired to a six-speed manual gearbox (a 10-speed auto is also available), the 0-60mph sprint is done in 4.6 seconds with a 155mph top speed possible. It's not exactly the last word in efficiency, with a claimed 22mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions of 277g/km.

It's an archaic feeling thing, with torque lazily coming in at around 4,000rpm before power really begins to build, which would be a disappointment in any other car – but it's a Mustang, and it aids that old-school muscle feel that buyers will want.

On paper, a Mustang might sound like an overdose of understeer with large dimensions (4.8 metres long, and 2.1 wide) and a 1,743kg weight – but that's not the case.

It's no hot hatch through the corners, but it



**It's not a classically beautiful design, but the aggressive, bold look continues to fit the mission statement of the Mustang perfectly**

feels pretty composed and manageable on the road, likely thanks to the 'MagneRide' adaptive suspension. Steering also weighs up nicely in Sport+ mode, although more feel through the wheel wouldn't go amiss.

Take the 'Stang out on the motorway and you'll have a very relaxed journey – if maybe one with a fair few fuel stops as a result of that poor economy. It feels truly at home on big, open roads, with the suspension providing a comfortable ride and the engine settling down to a quiet grumble at cruising speeds.

The Ford Mustang has never been a discreet looking thing, but a few visual tweaks have certainly given it even more presence on the road. New air vents have been added to the bonnet, while a revised lower grille creates an even more menacing look.

It's not all show, though. The new front splitter increases downforce while the addition of 'rocker shields' to the wheel arches aid air flow under the car to reduce drag.

It's not a classically beautiful design, but the aggressive, bold look continues to fit the mission statement of the Mustang perfectly.

It's one of the most brutal looking things on the road that's sure to turn heads – especially so in the 'Orange Fury' paint finish on our car.

To hit a £41k price point with the performance on offer, it's clear to see Ford have cut corners inside the car. It's definitely not a bad place to be – most things feel well-built and there's few hard plastics to be found – but rivals do offer more.

Controls and switches in the centre console look and feel a tad outdated, while the faux leather upholstery is a bit hard to the touch.

Our test car was also fitted with optional Recaro leather seats. They're fine to sit in, offering great support all round and plenty of comfort, but it does result in a cramped driving position that is a struggle to adapt to. Fitting these also removes the option of heated and ventilated seating – worth considering if you plan to use it as a long-distance cruiser.

The Mustang is pretty well equipped out of the box. For no extra cost, there's the new lane keep and pre-collision technology, while adaptive cruise control, a 12-inch LCD instrument cluster, Ford's Sync 3 infotainment

system on a eight-inch screen, automatic LED headlights and a heated steering wheel are present. Mechanical features such as a limited-slip differential and the active exhaust system are also included. It's a generous package, making this not just great for pound-performance, but also for tech too.

There's a healthy amount of options to pick. Recaro seats will set you back an extra £1,700 (although we'd stick with the standard units) and for the trick 'MagneRide' suspension, you'll be paying £1,600.

Fresh changes for the Ford Mustang haven't revolutionised the brute, which is exactly what it didn't need to do. It remains in its own league, offering an old-school, all-American muscle car experience here in the UK.

Sure, the interior may not be up to scratch with rivals at its price point, but they simply don't offer the theatre and raw fun the Mustang brings to the table. In a world driven by electrification and autonomy, it's a relief that a naturally aspirated, V8 monster with a manual gearbox still remains on sale. And a great one at that, too.

## Latest Toyota Rav4 revealed



Toyota has revealed the all-new Rav4 SUV, which gets a rugged new look and sits on the firm's latest vehicle platform.

The latest generation of the 4x4, credited with starting the family SUV craze back in 1994, gets one hybrid powertrain and one petrol engine, with no diesels in sight.

The Japanese car manufacturer is phasing out use of diesel engines because of diminishing sales and bad public perception, so the Rav4 gets a revised version of Toyota's 2.5-litre petrol electric system with the 2.0-litre petrol engine available with both a manual and automatic transmission.

No performance figures have been revealed for either engine yet, but expect both to improve on existing models.

Toyota claims that its new vehicle platform, which is called Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), gives the SUV "significant benefits in ride, handling, safety and driver enjoyment".

This new platform has allowed the Rav4 to remain the same length as before, with a longer wheelbase, which should mean better stability at high speeds and in corners. This has also improved cabin space, so passengers have more leg room and luggage capacity.

With the new platform comes a new design. The Rav4 echoes the angular styling cues seen on the latest Toyota Auris hatchback. The SUV gets a blocky, muscular stance aided by shorter front and rear overhangs and chunky, wide wheelarches that are a stark departure from the tamer styling of the outgoing model.

## Five years on Dacia Sandero still most affordable car in UK



**Many things have increased in price since 2013 when the Dacia Sandero first arrived in the United Kingdom.**

However, despite a recent facelift and improvements, the entry-level Sandero Access has always maintained its 'shockingly affordable' claim of being the most affordable car on sale in the UK.

Dacia has just announced its first price rise for the Sandero Access in over five years – and still remains the most affordable new car on sale in the UK. By over one thousand pounds.

Priced at £6,995 the Sandero Access SCe 75 is not just about the affordable initial purchase price. It recently came out on top of the cap hpi Pence Per Mile list,

with a pence per mile cost, that takes into account all day to day running costs and depreciation, of just 20.63p – ahead of every other car on sale in the UK today.

Dacia also took second and third places in this report.

Demonstrating that the Sandero is not just about an extremely affordable price are the numerous recent awards it's picked up – notably for the Ambiance TCe 90 version, What Car?'s 'Best Small Car up to £12,000' for the last six years.

Standard specification on the entry-level Access trim includes ABS, ESC, Hill start assist, front airbags, ISOFIX and Emergency Brake Assist (EBA), LED daytime running lights and 15-inch 'Tarkine' wheels.

Moving to the next trim level up – Ambiance – brings with it air conditioning (the most affordable car on sale in the UK with this feature as standard), DAB radio and front electric windows, for only £800 more.

With such an affordable price and a very strong residual value, the Dacia Sandero Access SCe 75 is an extremely attractive purchase via the Dacia Dimensions PCP offer.

With just a £1,367 deposit, customers pay just £89 a month – including a £250 deposit contribution from Dacia.

Further information on the Dacia model range, current offers and full terms and conditions, is available at [www.dacia.co.uk](http://www.dacia.co.uk)



It was quite a surprise that one of the five biggest car manufacturers in the world is producing hand built supercars from a small facility in Markham, just outside Toronto

# Inside Ford's supercar factory, a place where motor dreams become reality

By Rebecca Chaplin

When you're in a job such as ours, you get to see the inner workings of car manufacturing plants regularly. These mammoth plants run by robots, feeding car after car through to the technicians who construct them.

Even on the smaller scale side of things, big machinery still plays a part, whether that's to assist lifting, turn the cars over for better access or hike them up and down.

While they're usually clever, they can also sometimes be tedious and boring. I've stood lazily in a few, wishing I had a robot to carry me around.

It was quite a surprise to see, therefore, that one of the five biggest car manufacturers in the world is producing hand built supercars from a small facility in Markham, just outside Toronto.

It's not much to see from the outside, blending in with the rest of the industrial park it sits in, and you'd never guess what it holds inside.

Here they use little more than the man power of 140 employees and largely tools they can use with their hands to assemble this beast for the road. Standing in one corner of the workshop, almost all stages of the supercars' construction can be seen and, if you're lucky enough, sometimes hear one starting up.

This is the Ford GT, based on the looks of the iconic GT40s but with one of Ford's 3.5-litre EcoBoost engines tuned up to 638bhp. Weighing in at just 1,385kg, it can soar on to its top speed of 216mph – besting its competition from Ferrari and McLaren. It was first revealed back in 2015, and this year the first UK delivery finally made its way to its new home.

While American muscle is something Ford's of the past are renowned for, the GT is a far more delicate feat of engineering than you might imagine – one that many, bar the owners of these rarities and the people who build them, would ever get to see. Here at the factory, they produce one completed car a day although around 30 will be on the workshop floor at any one time in various stages.

Multimatic is the company that owns the site and has the pleasure of assembling the GTs. The building we're walking around has been constructed especially to build these cars, however the company's usual fare fits in well with these cars. Its name is known by race fans. This workshop is like every carmakers' dream – small scale builds with a huge Ford budget.

Although the cars are assembled here, the parts come from all over the globe as vice president of engineering at Multimatic Larry Holt explains. On our side of the planet, the leather for the interior of the cars comes from the



Parts come from all over the globe with leather for the cabin going from the Highlands to Essex to be assembled before crossing the Atlantic



Cars are given their VIN numbers, as unique as the customer wants

Highlands to Essex to be assembled before making its way over the Atlantic.

The monocoque of the car arrives at the plant already constructed. Here the panels – all carbon fibre – go on to the tub to check they align correctly before coming off again to be



The GT with a 3.5 EcoBoost engine tuned up to 638bhp

sprayed. The cars are given their unique VIN numbers, which can really be as unique as the customer wants.

The framework of the car with its roof attached then splits off in two directions – rolled across the floor by hand. One team will assemble the

engine and fit it in the frame, while the other works on the cars suspension.

It might seem like a rudimentary system to carry this out by hand, but careful checks are put in place to keep the highest standard. While there are several work stations around and

every team has their own role, they each check the previous work that has been done and can reject it if anything isn't up to standard. Holt tells us that, so far, they've never had to send a finished car back into the production line because it didn't meet their high standards.

When the two halves are fitted with the required parts, they're then reunited.

The technicians can now begin fitting parts such as the brakes and fuel tank, before moving on to the more personal touches, like the interior.

As more parts go onto the car we can see what a jigsaw puzzle of parts this is, with almost every individual piece carefully redesigned for the lowest weight and to fit in the tightest space.

That said, as we navigate our tour, it's clear this isn't really like any other production line. We've talked through the features and parts by members of the team, but the technicians fitting them have the time to wander off and grab examples from the shelves. Some even have time to stop for a quick chat about the details of these precision pieces.

With these tightly packed away, the glass and finer interior details can go on, before the painted bodywork can go back on the car. This is where things get a little more exciting, as the cars need to be started up to check they're in good working order.

Here Multimatic has two rolling roads, ready to run the cars up to speed.

They're measuring the results but also listening to check that everything sounds correct – more analogue checks in this digital world of car design. The growl of the GT is distinctive and unmissable, with a deep note that is unique on today's roads.

There's a final test as the light inside the tunnel, rather than at the end of, which illuminates the car from every angle and makes even the finest imperfection visible.

At the entrance to the workshop a photo of every car that has left the factory is featured. While some are more vibrant than most might like, there is a clear desire for the famous heritage colours. Gulf blue and orange is clearly popular but the team explains that even these are up for dispute, and customers have gone to the extremes of finding specific winning years for their paintwork.

From start to finish, each car build takes around 22 days. It's a small team, in a comparably small factory, where they hand build these beautiful cars, but what's really clear is the love and passion for these cars.

They all stand, squat or bend proudly under the car's winning titles – so far – as they construct what are mechanical art more than machines.

# Job well done in latest Subaru XV

By Ian Donaldson

Lots of car makers barely mention the oily bits when they proudly introduce the latest model, concentrating instead on the newly flowing lines or vibrant colour choices.

Well, Subaru does all that too – but only after giving you a technical teach-in worthy of a first year degree course in automotive engineering.

Or nearly; with enough diagrams and charts to have you hoping to remember your tumble generation valve from your lateral bending stiffness.

No, me neither, until a dip into the press info file shows we're talking here about the engine and body, the first making the fuel mix better in the cylinders and the increased latter producing a stiffer body that's safer, quieter and better riding.

Both feature on the new Subaru XV, a thorough makeover of an SUV launched in 2012 and facelifted four years later but only taking a fifth of the modest 2,665 total Subarus sales in the UK last year.

The company wants to become the fastest growing car brand in Europe in 2018 and hopes the latest XV will do its bit to make that happen.

If buyers put their head before their heart that ought not to be an impossible target, if the heart rules there is an awful lot of handsome competition out there in the mid-size SUV market (think Mazda CX-3 and Toyota CH-R for starters).

Let's go head first into the new XV, where Subaru continues to make much of its long term mechanical features, with a flat four engine and all-wheel drive contributing a lower centre of gravity for better roadholding and slippery road stability respectively.



It looks a lot like the old car

The choice of 2.0 litre 154bhp or new 112bhp 1.6 litre petrol engine (the old diesel is ditched) comes with a CVT automatic transmission and permanent all-wheel drive, all wrapped in a body a little longer and wider than before and a lot stiffer too.

It looks a lot like the old car but with shaper curves and a touch more off-road aggression around the plastic wheelarch extensions. Inside, there is a very obvious lift in quality of trim and much clearer instruments and graphics.

Keeping things simple, the XV comes with the two engine choices and just two trim levels, with prices starting at £24,995 for the 1.6 SE and adding £2,000 for SE Premium trim.

Choose the bigger 2.0 litre engine and the prices are £26,495 and £28,495, with the latter top spec likely to be the biggest seller by some way.

Choose the simple SE model and you won't feel shortchanged, with standard kit stretching



Off-road, and on standard tyres, the XV was properly impressive

from adaptive cruise control and pre-collision braking to hill descent control and an eight inch touchscreen and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The plusher SE Premium adds satellite navigation, leather seats, power adjustment for the driver and a sunroof.

There remains enough room in the rear seat for a couple of adults not to fall out on a long journey and the already decently sized boot gains a tiny bit more packing space.

The 2.0 litre engine does an adequate, unspectacular job of propelling the newcomer at any sane road speed and with notably more refinement than before. It showed an acceptable 36mpg after an undemanding drive on British roads.

Pushed to its limit, the 2.0 will hit 121mph, reach 62mph in 10.4 seconds and recorded 40.9mpg and 155g/km in the official tests – all unexceptional figures.

The smaller 1.6 has to work harder, with

an indifferent 13.9 seconds to 62mph and 109mph top speed – for modest efficiency gains, showing 44.1mpg and 145g/km.

Off road, and on standard tyres, the XV was properly impressive, tackling a track more than ankle deep in freshly minted winter mud. As on the road, some subtle adjustments to the suspension meant a calmer than expected ride.

So, Subaru's depth of engineering prowess shines through again. Job done?



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\*Available on Excite and Exclusive models

# Volvo's new versatile family estate

Volvo Cars has revealed the new V60 five-door, mid-size premium estate, underlining the Swedish company's position as a maker of cars that combine good looks with everyday practicality.

The car was launched in its natural habitat – the driveway of a family home in Stockholm – highlighting Volvo Cars' pedigree in family estates and pinpointing how the V60's versatile design caters to the diverse needs and realities of modern family life.

## Tradition

"The family estate driver is an important customer for our business and has been for generations," said Håkan Samuelsson, president and CEO of Volvo Cars. "The new V60 honours that tradition, but also takes it much further."

The new V60 shares Volvo Cars' Scalable Product Architecture (SPA) platform with the award-winning new XC60 and three top-of-the-line 90 series cars, which have been the collective force behind the company's record-breaking global sales performance in recent years.

The SPA-based V60 introduces a new standard to the mid-size premium estate segment with a luxurious interior, increased levels of space, advanced connectivity, and Volvo Cars' latest driver-support systems and other safety technology.

"The V60 really is the central point of the Volvo brand," said Robin Page, senior vice president design at Volvo Cars. "It's refined, has a beautiful proportion and stance, yet delivers on practicality and versatility."

In a first for the segment, customers can



The V60 is the central point of the brand

access the new V60 via Volvo Cars' new premium subscription service, Care by Volvo\*, which offers car access via a monthly flat-fee subscription rather than ownership. Care by Volvo makes having a car as transparent, easy and hassle free as having a mobile phone.

Reflecting Volvo Cars' industry-first announcement to electrify all new cars from 2019, the V60 comes with two plug-in hybrid powertrain options: the new T6 Twin Engine AWD petrol plug-in hybrid that generates a combined 340 hp, or the T8 Twin Engine AWD petrol plug-in hybrid that delivers 390 hp.

The regular petrol choice includes T5 or T6 powertrains. Drivers who prefer diesel can select D3 or D4 engines.

The new V60 reinforces Volvo Cars' standing as the industry leader in safety, with a comprehensive list of safety features that come as standard, including advanced driver-support systems known from the 90 series



The V60 comes with two plug-in hybrid powertrain options

and XC60, making the new V60 one of the safest cars on the road.

The City Safety with Autobrake technology uses automatic braking and detection systems to assist the driver in avoiding potential collisions, and is the only system on the market to recognise pedestrians, cyclists and large animals. In a world first, City Safety now also engages autobraking to mitigate oncoming collisions.

The Pilot Assist system – which supports the driver with steering, acceleration and braking on well-marked roads up to 80 mph – has been upgraded with improved cornering performance. The V60 also includes Run-off Road Mitigation, Oncoming Lane Mitigation and other steering-assistance systems. The optional Cross Traffic Alert with autobrake further improves safety for people inside and outside the car.

Volvo Cars' Sensus infotainment system is fully compatible with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and 4G, and keeps drivers connected at all times. The system is controlled via an intuitive tablet-style touch screen that combines car functions, navigation, connected services and entertainment apps.

UK prices for the V60 will start at £31,810 on the road (full pricing and specification details will be announced shortly).

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# Diamond date as Lions get ready to roar



Birmingham Lions are five-time national champions



Running back Ruth Matta (credit: Geoff White)

## Tettenhall-based Fell tipped to find his form with Worcestershire in county championship

CRICKET coach Kevin Sharp is backing Worcestershire batsman Tom Fell to bounce back from the challenges of last summer and enjoy a productive 2018 campaign back in Division One of the County Championship.

Head coach Sharp says Wolverhampton batsman Fell, from Tettenhall, is 'in a good frame of mind and looking very good at the crease' with the county cricket season set to get underway tomorrow, Friday.

The 24-year-old scored 1,000 championship runs when Worcestershire were last in the top flight in 2015 and he greatly impressed the then champions Yorkshire with his century in the opening game of that season.

Now he will be striving to play a full part in the coun-

ty's ambitions as they try to make their mark in Division One, with the opening match away to Hampshire. Sharp said: 'Tom is still relatively young and every player will go through a tough period. His was probably a bit longer than he would have liked but it won't do him any harm. He is in a good frame of mind, he looks very good at the crease.'

'He probably enjoyed a little break at the end of the season like we all did and he looks absolutely fine. I'd be very confident that he will go on and have a good season. He got 1,000 runs the last time he played in Division One. He got a fine century against Yorkshire and they were very impressed.'

In terms of last summer, Sharp added: 'Sometimes when you are out of form, the confidence levels and

the technique go hand in hand. If you are a bit low on confidence, it can affect your technique. You might grip the bat a bit hard so it affects your balance and your bat path and those things were happening a little for Tom which is not unusual.'

'But once he has managed to spend some time at the crease again, and started to relax and enjoyed that feeling of being out there again, all those other things will just fall into place.'

Worcestershire have been forced to revise their pre-season plans after a succession of wash-outs.

Not a ball was bowled in three days of scheduled cricket with Gloucestershire at Bristol and a three-day first class game with Leeds-Bradford MCCU at RGS Worcester suffered the same fate.

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Celine Bisson

played an 11-a-side game together before the beginning of the tournament, we cannot underestimate how tough this challenge will be, and that is the exact reason why we want to take it on.

"Having already beaten the Helsinki Wolverines, in a nine-a-side game, hopefully the opposition will be a little wary, and that's what makes it even more exciting! The Birmingham Lions are fierce competitors, and with a roster bursting with talent in their prime I'm confident we are going to surprise more than a few people."

The Lions will face the Helsinki Roosters, hosts and one of Finland's most established team, but also the Saint Petersburg Valkyries and the Tampere Saints in a former Summer Olympics venue, the Helsinki Velodrome. The Lions will open the tournament on April 20 against the Valkyries. Club captain Jo Kilby said: "The team is extremely excited to be returning to Finland, this time to play 11-a-side football versus some of Europe's best exponents."

"Hosted by the Helsinki Roosters, whose pedigree is well regarded, our ambition is to compete, represent our team and ourselves proudly whilst learning masses from the opportunity and experience. Whatever the outcome we hope to have a lot of fun along the way and bring a taste of the Lions brand of football proudly to the European fore."

For more information about the Diamond Bowl, full program and live streams, visit diamond.helsinkiroosters.com or to find out more about the Birmingham Lions, visit birminghamlions.co.uk.

### Historic

The Lions are pioneers in the women's game in Great Britain and are now well known for pushing the boundaries of the sport. They were the first British women's club side to take on a European club abroad in 2015 when they played French side Les Sparkles and travelled to Helsinki in 2017 to take on the Helsinki Wolverines, Finland's national champions.

A year later, they are about to play in an historic, unprecedented tournament, both on a European and domestic scale. This is the first time that any team affiliated with the British American Football Association (BAFA) Women's has played 11-a-side American football abroad.

Lions' Head Coach Jamie Kilby said: "Having never

## Move to delay start of season

BIRMINGHAM League clubs have been asked to vote on whether to push back the start of their season by a week following prolonged bad weather.

The league's cricket committee is asking clubs for their views after snow and heavy rain throughout March and into April have left many groundsman struggling to prepare pitches ahead of the scheduled April 21 start.

And committee members have made the recommendation to clubs that the league programme should be postponed until Saturday April 28.

Fixtures due to be played on April 21 would be played on bank holiday Monday, August 27, is the proposal is backed.

The recommendation will be implemented if 75 per cent of member clubs are in favour. The deadline for clubs to make their feelings known was Monday.

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Final whistle

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# Sport

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Lions are ready to roar

Page 39



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Martin Kirk and Shelley Smithies in action

## Sidecar duo to race at Brands Hatch

AFTER taking a year out, sidecar driver Martin Kirk is now raring to go.

The Stourbridge racer also has a new passenger this year, so he will be entering round one of this weekend's British Sidecar championships with a completely new slate.

The sidecars will be racing on the under card of the British Superbike (BSB) series, which takes place at Brands Hatch.

Kirk said: "I missed most of last season so I could save some money and buy a new sidecar."

"Our old bike was from 1985 but now we've got a 2003 LCR chassis, which is a huge difference."

"We've did a couple of races at Cadwell Park, finishing in the top three, and then more testing over the winter just to get bedded in. We've certainly got the hunger back now. We're ready to go."

Kirk, aged 35, who works as a spray painter for Dustair in Brierley Hill, which is also sponsoring him this year, will be racing with female passenger, Shelley Smithies, from Basingstoke.

## Boxing prodigy Paige is chasing Euro gold in Italy

DUDLEY boxing prodigy Paige Goodey is continuing her quest for gold as she has been selected to represent England at the European Championships.

The 17-year-old, who is a product of Brooklands Amateur Boxing Club in Dudley, is looking to pack a punch as she competes in the 69kg weight class in Italy.

This is not the first time the teenager has competed on the international stage.

In 2015, Goodey was victorious at the Haslev Boxcup in Denmark.

Trained at the club by Darren McDermott, she is flying out for the event a week on Monday.

Her development has been helped by security services firm, GMS Group, who sponsor the club.

Goodey said: "I am delighted to again be called up to represent my country and can't wait to get out to the championships."

McDermott added: "Fingers crossed she comes back with a medal. She's worked very hard for this. She's buzzing about it."

## Game on for the gold medal winners

TWO Black Country athletes took home gold in the Commonwealth Games leading England's early surge at the top of the medal table on Australia's Gold Coast.

Helen Scott MBE, who used to be based in Halesowen, set a new record alongside Sophie Thornhill as they won the women's visually impaired sprint in cycling.

Dominic Cunningham, who used to train at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, was part of the England quintet which won the men's

team gymnastics event, retaining the title won four years ago in Glasgow.

Scott, a member Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club, took to social media to celebrate her record achievement.

In a post on Instagram, where she was pictured with her team mate holding their medals, Scott wrote: "Dream day. Dream opponents. Tandem sprinting is AWESOME!" Cunningham, also took to social media to celebrate his win. He wrote: "We absolutely killed it!!"



Victorious Helen Scott, right, and Sophie Thornhill

## DK runners' Manchester relay triumph

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club were among the prizes at the weekend at the Manchester Marathon.

The awesome foursome of Darran Bishop, Mark Homer, Dave Norman and Simon Blizzard ran 9k, 9k, 14k and 11k respectively to make up the full distance finishing in a time of 2:51.19, winning the relay event by a distance with the second-placed team coming home some 20 minutes adrift.

There were some impressive performances in the individual race with Stuart Perkins bringing the hoops home in 2:59.41 in 435th place, Malcolm Beddall finished in 3:58.41 in 4329th, Steve Parr was 4450th in 3:59.41, Jan Burbie finished in 4:36.34 in 6863rd, Claire Hancock in 4:39.42 in 7032nd, Susan Barley in 4:56.37 in 7866 and Kimberley Ball in 5:07.29 in 8210th place. Tony Nocke made it to halfway before having to drop out.

Closer to home a group raced the Action Heart 5 in Dudley. In a race where Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers claimed virtually all the honours the blue hoops were overshadowed somewhat. It was a DASH clean sweep with Rob Meredith claiming victory in 27.26 for the 5 mile distance, Ben Foster bagged second place in 27.41 and Dave Nation was 3rd in 28.04, Dave Radcliffe of DASH was 5th in 31.38 and Darrell Boden completed the DASH demolition in 6th in 31.41, with Adam Boden coming home in 13th in 32.57.

## It's ninth win out of ten for Byfield

NETHERTON boxer Les Byfield got his year off to a victorious start against Northern Irishman Alec Bazza in the top of the bill bout at the Venue in Dudley on Saturday night in a superfeatherweight six rounder.

Byfield, aged 30, says he feels ready for a title shot after outpointing the durable journeyman opponent.

It was the Black Country fighter's tenth pro fight as he builds up a useful record that has seen him defeated only once, a points loss that took place on his pro debut.

See coverage of the clash on YouTube via BCB Promotions.



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Thursday, April 12, 2018

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## RAMPANT DK TAME LIONS

Rugby Lions 20 Dudley Kingswinford 52  
DK travelled to Webb Ellis Road looking for a win to keep the pressure on Burton.

Stef Shillingford was in under the posts, Sam Vaughan added the extras 7-0 DK with five minutes gone.

DK had added to their lead with a try 12-0 to DK thanks to a superb drive by loose head Kieron Williams.

Rugby Lions punished some poor kicking to score in the corner, 12-5.

DK struck next following a penalty kick into the right hand corner. DK launched a flowing backs move with right wing Luke Treviss joining the line from the blindside, full back Nick Adams fixing the defenders with a dummy run and Treviss was able to feed left wing Ryan Smitheman who cut back through the cover defence for an excellent try. Vaughan added the extras.

The second quarter of the game saw Rugby come back into the game with a penalty for offside which cut the lead to 19-8. Then DK were down to 14 men when Nick Adams was yellow carded for comments. Rugby made DK pay with two tries. With a conversion the Lions were 20-19 up.

Into the final minutes of the half, DK were awarded a penalty kick in the Lions half, won by a superb piece of scrummaging by Kieron Williams. True to their attacking spirit DK when for the corner. The DK drive saw Danny Hawkins driven over the line for the try. A DK lead at half time 24-20.

DK maintained control for the game throughout the second half.

### Significant

The first significant DK effort on the Lions line once again came from a penalty to the corner. So a five metre scrum to a pick and go from Pete Griffiths then Danny Hawkins carrying towards the posts, an offload to Arran Hudson straight under the sticks, plus two more from Sam, 31-20 to DK.

Moments later DK were adding to their lead a



Go 'man go - Ryan Smitheman hurdles the tackle to score for DKs against Rugby Lions

try which started deep in the DK half as the DK three quarter line had set up far quicker than the Lions defensive line and the result was that Vaughan was given space to run into the centre. A well-timed pass to Treviss on the right wing, then the inside pass to the forwards who were making ground, a carry from Arran Hudson, on to Dan Marsh, who was adding pace to the move and striding for the line and the finish to a team try, plus two more from Vaughan 38-20.

DK were very much on top in the game and managing field position well, the Lions were being pinned into their own half.

DK scored two tries in the final quarter of the game both from full back Nick Adams, they were almost carbon copies of each other, a set piece on the DK right then the two half backs Jordan

Brookes and Connah Jones challenging the defensive line before a sweeping pass straight to full back Nick Adams and straight through a gap, plus two conversions from Sam to make it 52-20.

Though, perhaps the moment in the game that typified the DK performance came in the last few minutes, when Ryan Smitheman made two tackles in quick succession the stop a Lions counter attack deep in their half.

This was a game where the backs certainly took their chances, but it was a whole hearted effort by the forward pack that was the foundation of the victory.

DK are at last back at Heathbrook on Saturday against Stoke on Trent, the first home game since January.



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